THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

July 14th—20th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 28

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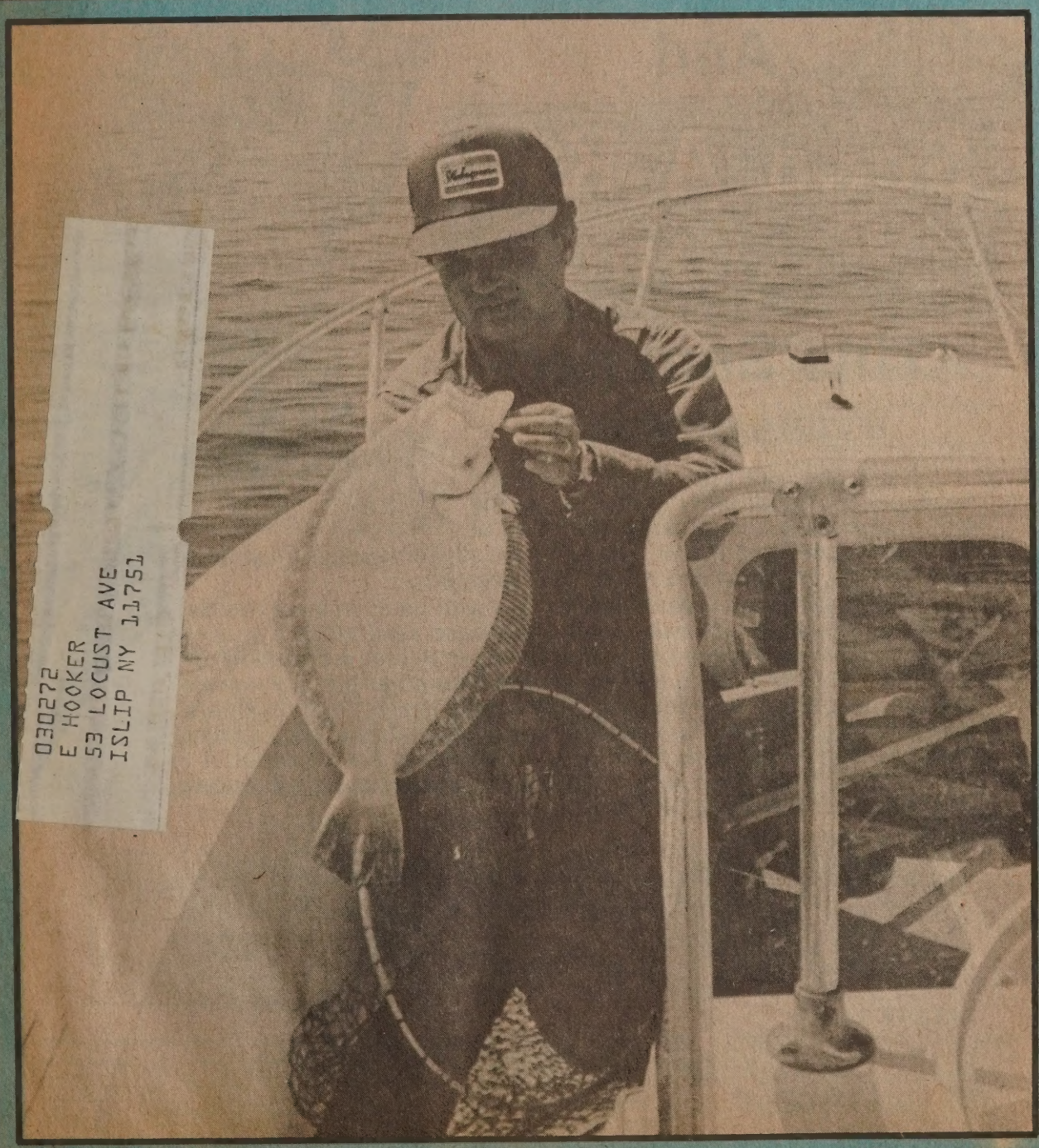

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Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer.
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Whether you prefer to do your fluking in New York Bight or in the shadow of Gardiner's Island, both extremes offer excellent opportunities for summer flatfish. If you plan on sampling the action in either of these areas, see the articles beginning on pages 26 and 28.

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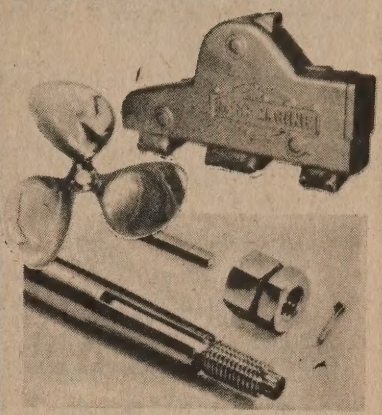

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EDITORIAL

REPORT ON BLUEFISH PUBLIC HEARINGS

"I just heard about this meeting this afternoon." "I believe the Mid-Atlantic Council should have publicized these hearings so that more people would have known about them."

These are a few of the more different comments made by two different speakers at the bluefish public hearings held on Long Island on May 24, 25, and 26, 1983. First, we would like to compliment these two people (as well as others in the same boat, but who did not speak) for coming to the public hearings on such short notice. Their appearance was a tribute to their concern about and dedication to recreational marine angling as well as bluefish management.

In all, over 300,000 people were directly contacted and informed.. Statisticians tell us we may assume that three times that number, or about a million people were informed of the meeting dates and locations. However, we were disappointed that some local newspapers did not state the importance of your attendance at these hearings.

The COMBINED attendance at the three (3) hearings was 120: 14 at Stony Brook, 35 at Amityville, and 71 at Valley Stream. With about one million fishermen contacted, that attendance is confusing. Over 5,000 people turned out for the hearing in 1979 in Hempstead. Where were these people in 1983?

I had one fellow on the beach tell me he lives in Westchester and it was hard for him to make it. Yet I often see this fellow on Long Island beaches at sunset for five or six days in a row. Apparently catching bluefish is one thing and protecting them for the future is quite another. We thought the double standard died with Women's Lib!

Now, we know how much you love editorials like this one. No one likes to be chastised, but dog-gone-it, those of you who did not show up really dropped the ball. What may happen is that the commercial share of bluefish harvests will increase by 75 percent. We were told that many people did not show up because they felt that The Long Island Fisherman, the New York Sport Fishing Federation, and other organizations were representing them. Well, these organizations were there—all three nights—and spoke on the three nights. However, numbers make as big an impression as sound presentations. In 1979, we mandated the Council to develop a bluefish management plan because thousands of angry fishermen turned out for the hearings in 1979.

On the plus side, LIF and concerned recreational fishing groups on Long Island really worked hard in the weeks preceding the hearings to get our "ducks all in a row." On the plus side, virtually all speakers made the same key points: 1) we need bluefish; 2) we need a plan now; 3) no increase in the commercial harvest; 4) no gear prohibition waivers. These comments were thoughtful, well prepared, and well presented. Clearly these presentations made a very positive impression. In addition, I believe we educated the Mid-Atlantic Council about how important bluefish are to us as an inshore game fish! A fish packer from the Fulton Fish Market stated they can't handle any more bluefish and they don't want any more bluefish shipped to the market.

However, the pressure for large ocean harvests for export remains a very real threat. Large ocean harvests could still be cost-effective, even when the fish are shipped overseas at very low prices because of the densities of the catches. When we consider that these magnificent game fish, that give us so much pleasure and contribute perhaps $1 million to the economy of Mid-Atlantic states, might be shipped overseas for less than 12 cents per pound, we get **mad** and so should you!

A 75 percent increase in the commercial catch may not impact upon the overall stocks of bluefish in the western Atlantic, but such harvests might easily impact severely on recreational catches in local areas. With bass in deep trouble and weakfish decreasing rapidly, it might mean that in some locales there might be no inshore game fishing.

It may not be too late. Send a letter TODAY! Tell Mr. Bryon you insist on the four (4) items listed two paragraphs above. Send letters to: Mr. John Bryon, Exec. Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Mgt. Council, 2115 Federal Building, North and New Streets, Dover, Delaware 19901.

William A. Sprecher

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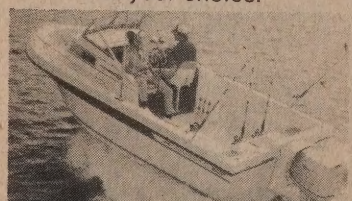

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SENATOR DUNNE REFLECTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Cooperation and compromise were the key to passage of major environmental legislation this year, State Senator John R. Dunne (R-Nassau) said today, reflecting on the 1983 Legislative Session.

Senator Dunne, Chairman of the Senate Conservation and Recreation Committee, said the recently concluded session, "will be remembered as one of the most productive in recent years, especially in terms of the critical environmental issues that were addressed." He added, "We could not have accomplished as much as we did without the help and input of environmental and industry groups, and of course, our friends in the Assembly."

Dunne noted that his Committee's primary focus has been on the serious threat posed by hazardous wastes in New York State. He said the clean-up of inactive disposal sites and the transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes in the state continue to be "the number one priority" of his committee.

"This year we passed or put forward legislation that establishes a comprehensive statewide hazardous waste management plan; strengthens state laws governing the disposal of waste oils and increases fines and penalties for illegally dumping these oils; and helps limit the danger posed by the accidental spillage of hazardous materials by "saving harmless' those who voluntarily assist in a cleanup."

In addition, we introduced legislation to address the shortfall in the state superfund by proposing a bill to plug the loopholes and expand the taxable base of the fund. The Senate was also prepared to appropriate general fund monies to shore-up the superfund this year," he added.

Senator Dunne said that legislation authorizing the Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct an industrial chemical survey was supported by various groups this year.

Protection of the state's ground and surface water supplies was also a top priority of the Senate Conservation and Recreation Committee, according to Dunne. The Senate passed legislation setting stringent controls on the bulk storage of petroleum products; phasing out landfills in Nassau and Suffolk counties; and establishing a 10-year moratorium on the mining of uranium in New York State.

In the area of environmental quality, the Senate passed legislation governing the sale and application of pesticides, and notification requirements when they are applied; and a bill requiring state certified laboratories to perform all testing under the state's air, water, and waste laws.

Senator Dunne added that a bill he introduced this year would require all major steam electric generating facilities in the state to substantially reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions. He said this was in response to what he and many others believe is the most serious threat to environmental quality in New York State—acid rain. Dunne noted that although his bill did not pass in the Legislature this year, it will be one of his top priorities next year.

Senator Dunne also sponsored important legislation in 1983 that will enhance and protect the state's valuable natural resources. Dunne bills that passed both Houses of the Legislature will establish a state striped bass management plan and increase the minimum size limit for their taking; protect shellfish and other marine resources; preserve historic structures and sites in the Adirondack and Catskill parks; provide youngsters with employment and the state with a workforce to improve recreational and natural resources; and allow conservation easements that protect sensitive ecological areas, forest and agricultural lands, to be more easily created.

Senator Dunne remarked that the environmental successes of the 1983 Legislative Session outweighed the near-successes. He added, "The Senate took the lead on all major environmental legislation offering a reasoned and rational response to the environmental problems confronting our state."

STRIPED BASS BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR FOR SIGNING

On Saturday, June 25th, the New York State Senate gave final approval to the Striped Bass Management Bill that is backed by the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the majority of the conservation and fishing groups throughout the state. The vote on the bill sponsored by Senator John Dunne of Garden City was 37 to 13. The Assembly had already approved the measure, introduced by Assemblyman Patrick Halpin of Lindenhurst, on June 15th. The bill will now go to Governor Mario Cuomo, who has less than a month to sign it before it becomes law.

Key elements in the bill conform to guidelines recommended by twelve Atlantic Coast States in the interstate compact. Seven of the states have already approved and implemented similar plans, and the remainder are expected to follow New York's action.

Since Atlantic Coast striped bass populations have now reached a crisis level—down **85 percent** in just ten years—all fishermen and conservationists are urged to write, send mail-

grams, or phone Governor Mario Cuomo this week asking him to sign the Striped Bass Management Bill, S-3283A and A-6469A, without delay. The address is Govn. Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, Albany, N.Y. 12224. His New York phone number is: (212) 587-2100 and his Albany phone number is: (518) 474-8390. Those who decide to call should ask that their name, address and message be recorded.

ON GOOD AND WELFARE

Popular LIF staffer Andy Regina, whose colorful articles have been entertaining Fisherman readers for years, is slated for some surgery at Montefiore Hospital. Andy is expected to spend a minimum of three weeks recuperating at the hospital, so a little note or card to bring him a little cheer might go a long way towards speeding up the recovery process. Address any mail to his home at 1306 Fteley Ave., Bronx, NY 10472 and Eileen will see that it gets to him.

FISHING TRIP FOR VIET VETS

At the Vietnam Veterans of America Suffolk Chapter meeting held in June at the County Legislature Building in Happauge, N.Y., the following Vietnam veterans were chosen by a drawing as the winners of a fishing trip on Captain Jerry McGrath's Montauk charter boat, Nostalgia II:

Francis "Butch" Derasmo, Oceanside, NY; John B. Burnett, Center Moriches, NY; Joseph L. Moore, Riverhead, NY and Kim Windsor, Centereach, NY.

The trip is tentatively planned for Friday, July 15th, as an all-day inshore charter for weaks, blues, and fluke.

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Sparse Grey Hackle was for many years a Wall Street Journal reporter and then a stockholder relations counsel. He contributed to **Sports**

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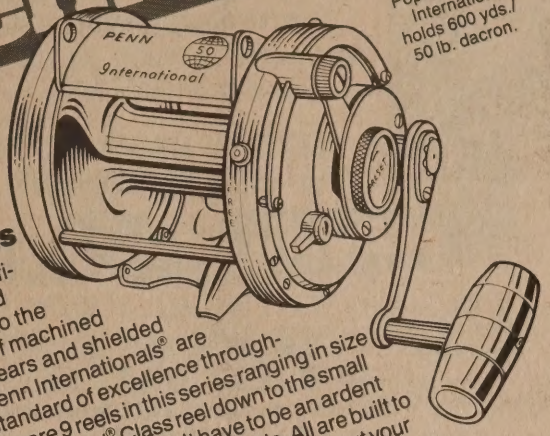

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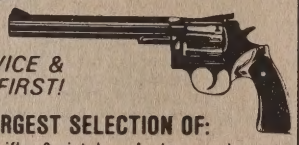

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FEEDING ANGLERS IS HIS SPECIALTY

Fishermen headed for Southold, Greenport or Orient Point can rest assured of a good, wholesome breakfast, lunch, dinner or box lunch from a diner in Greenport: Gene's Dockside Inn. Nestled in-between Mitchell's and Claudio's Docks, owner Gene Avella specializes in fishermen's trade, and throws open his doors at 5AM every morning. He says once you've eaten there, you'll be a regular customer from then on.

MIRROLURE ADDS SOUND

Popular demand from many parts of the country led L&S Bait Company to develop a MirrOlure with sound. The results were the new 33MR Rattler which, according to L&S President William LeMaster, is taking the fishing world by storm.

"In the new 33MR we've added the new dimension of sound to the natural flash and action of the famous MirrOlure," LeMaster said. "We incorporated all the great fish-catching characteristics we've developed since we started making the original crankbaits back in 1937.

"Through our research we learned what happens when a MirrOlure Rattler comes near a bass. The fish believes an intruder is scattering the baitfish and becomes angry. Being a predator, he will usually hit the Rattler and find himself snagged on one of those most effective hooks we put on our great lures."

The new Rattler comes in all colors and has the natural, lifelike eyes used on all MirrOlures. It runs two to six feet deep, and can be cranked at a steady speed or jerked to simulate the action of an injured fish.

The 33MR Rattler is available in any color listed on the L&S color chart, as well as the new fluorescent flame finishes. The company plans soon to make a rattler version of several other popular L&S models of freshwater and saltwater lures.

L&S Bait Company has been manufacturing reliable freshwater lures for more than 46 years. In 1950,

saltwater lures were added to the line. Presently, 84 models are distributed nationally and in some foreign countries. A MirrOlure model is made for every species of game fish.

MirrOlures are available at all bait and tackle shops and sporting goods stores. Free flyers on the new 33MR Rattler and a new bass kit may be obtained by writing L&S Bait Co., Inc., 1500 East Bay Drive, Largo, FL 33541. For a complete color catalog and price list, include 25 cents.

LAUNCH-A-SIST

Launch-A-Sist, a new boat launching aid, is being introduced by Sport-Fab of New Hampshire. This pteented, telescoping trailer extension device is for the boat owner who would like to be able to back his boat four to six feet further out into the water without backing his automobile in as well. Launch-A-Sist is ideal for the boat owner who has to deal with ramps where the water drops below the useful level of the ramp, shallow launch ramps, or locations where no real ramps exist.

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Avoid many of the problems encountered during boat launching by purchasing a Launch-A-Sist. If you have been unable to take your boat to remote bodies of water with minimal launch facilities, Launch-A-Sist will make them accessible.

Launch-A-Sists are available from: Sport-Fab, RFD #2, Box 399, Plymouth, N.H. 03264; 603-536-3880.

REGENCY'S LOW COAST DUAL BAND RADAR DETECTOR

Regency Electronics, Inc. has announced the introduction of the RS One, a low cost, two band radar detector.

The RS One is a dual bank XK radar detector that operates on both the new moving and hand-held "gun" radar systems. The Regency unit features an adjustable sensitivity control for city and open road driving. A loud buzzer sounds for radar alert warning.

The RS One also features a compact, non-glare case, a power LED, and mounting hardware for dashboard or sun visor mounting. Suggested retail price has been set at $89.95. For more information, contact Regency Electronics, 7707 Records St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.

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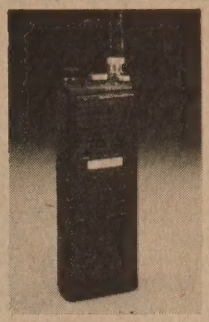

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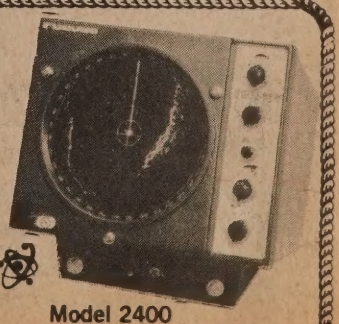

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STATE D.E.C. CONDUCTING OFFSHORE SURVEY

New York State is conducting an offshore fishing survey on tunas, marlins, sharks and swordfish. This is an attempt to document the importance—catch, effort and value—of sport fishing on the offshore fishing grounds and at the canyons.

The information will be used to represent the interests of N.Y. sport fishermen, support the move to include our tunas under the 200-mile limit, continue the control of foreign longlining along our coast, and prove to the National Marine Fisheries Service that a valuable offshore fishery exists in New York State.

New Jersey has already documented a significant fishery off their coast. We believe, from our contacts with many of you last year, that our fishery is of the same importance to you. Together we hope to demonstrate to the Federal Government the importance of saving fish in U.S. waters for U.S. fishermen.

As many of you know, working together last year we succeeded in limiting foreign longlining to no closer than 100 miles of our shores. This was a direct result of our having information on the numbers of U.S. boats fishing within that area. This survey enabled us to have those data.

Please, your help is needed to improve our study. Contact the Division of Marine Resources so your boat can be added to the growing list of New York's offshore fishermen. Together we can save the tuna, billfish and sharks.

For information, please contact us at New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Marine Resources, Bldg. #40, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11794; or call (516) 751-7900 and ask for John Mason **or** Jeff Sirkot.

If you use your boat for big game fishing and would like to be included in this year's survey, please complete the following and return it to John Mason at the above address.

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_____
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Please list two other friends who also fish offshore so that we can present the best case possible to the National Marine Fisheries Service in preserving your offshore fishing.

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SINGING IN THE RAIN

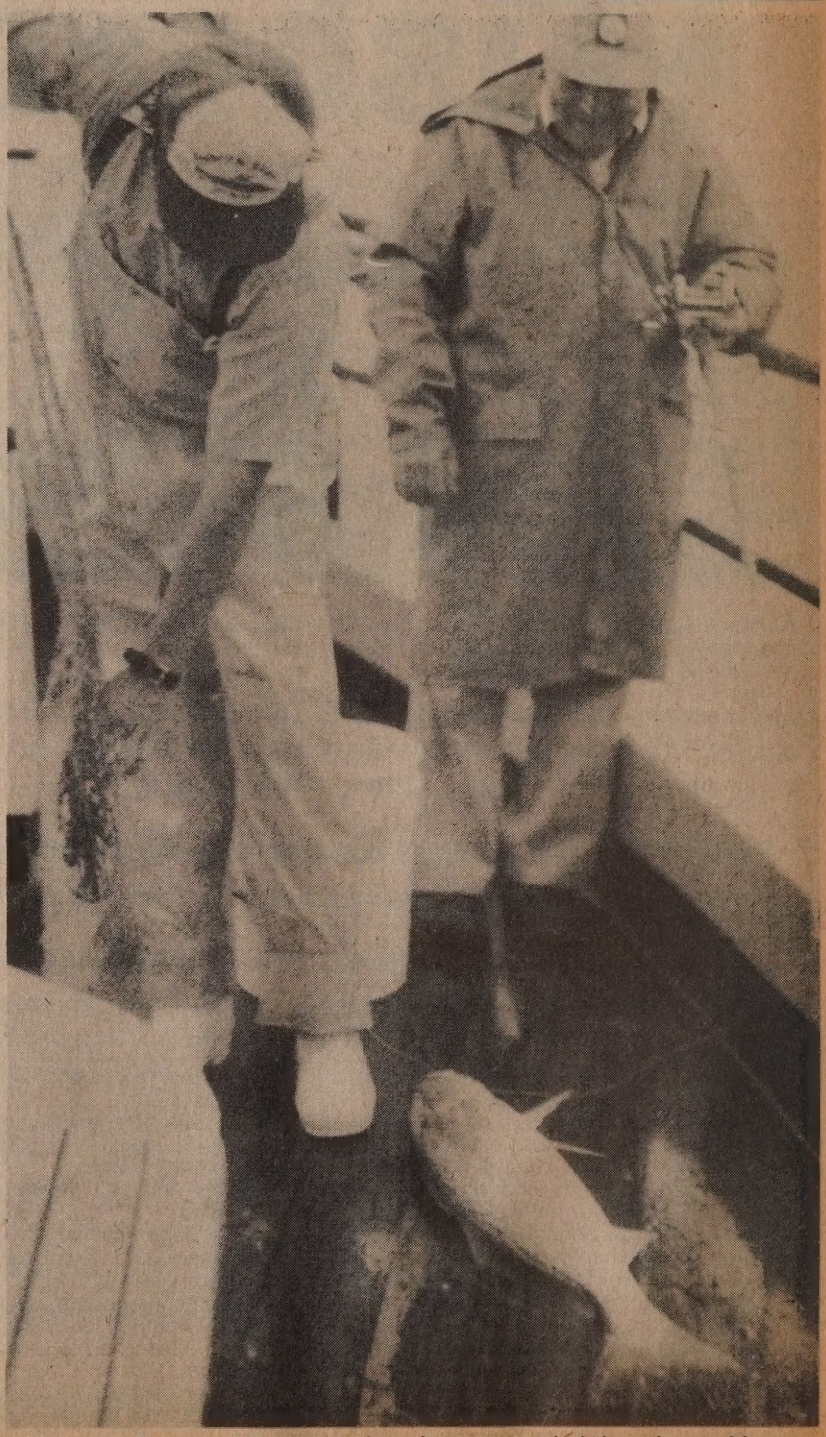
by Andy Regina

The author tries a unique approach in his quest for a trophy tiderunner, and never mind the rain.

My fishing rod was bent into that throbbing, pulsing arc that only a fisherman could appreciate. It actually vibrated with life as I leaned back into a real nice size fish that was determined to drag both me and my rod out to sea, if it could. The fish had struck almost instantly, nearly catching me off guard. I had just lowered a jig to the bottom and had barely started a slow retrieve when the jig was stopped dead in its tracks by what felt like a runaway locomotive. Instinctively, I struck back as hard as I could, to sink the hook solidly into tough bone and gristle, and the battle was on as the fish also reacted instinctively, spurred on by the sting of cold steel.

The big fish reacted violently. He resented the sudden toothache the hook gave him, resisted the urgent insistency of my line trying to haul him to the surface, and balked at the slow, steady pressure of the reel drag. He swam under the boat in a desperate attempt to escape, taking line out against a fairly tight drag setting. You'd think that I would have known how to react in that situation, with all the experience I have under this lengthy belt of mine, and you're right—I **do** know what to do under those circumstances, but I blew it anyway! Instead of allowing the fish to swim clear under our keel and out the other side as I gave slack and walked around the rail until I was broadside again, I foolishly tightened the drag and tried to horse the fish out by brute force. Well, you know the end of that sad story, don't you? Yes, I lost the fish all right, lost it by tearing the jig right out of its damned mouth. Then, to make the cheese more binding, I had to submit to all the ridicule I deserved from my fellow passengers, the captain and the crew. Everyone but me was laughing, as one huge weakfish after another seemed to be falling to the deck on all sides of me. I shook the raindrops off my eyeglasses and cursed silently. It was a day made for cursing, I thought, right from the damned beginning:

I had trudged down the ramp leading from Jack's Bait & Tackle in City Island early in the morning, past the rental fleet and the mini-armada of private boats tied to finger slips extending along one entire side of a long float that stretched out to the party boat dock. It was raining again, not a downpour but that slow, steady,



Frank DeGeorge, of Rosedale, doesn't seem to mind the rain one bit as his tiderunner awaits attention.

fine drizzle that you just knew would not stop all day long. I was hunched down into the turned-up collar of my windbreaker, struggling to keep my eyeglasses clear, but it was a useless battle and, naturally, I was swearing. My wife had advised me to take my foul weather suit along, but I was so busy being angry at the consistent lousy weather ruining another weekend again that I took my frustration out on her, telling her to mind her own business. Of course, all you married guys can just imagine what Eileen then told me to do with that foul weather suit, right? Physically impossible, I agree, but I still left the house as fast as possible anyway, before my wife became tempted to try the impossible! So naturally, by the time I got to the boat, I was my usual grouchy self again, complaining about the weather, the long hike to the boat and everything else. The fact that I was soaking wet already because I didn't listen to my wife's advice did not help the situation much either, believe me.

Our local open boat fleet had been knocking the socks off porgies for the past week or so, near Smithtown, but I was sailing for a different reason. I guess I'm spoiled. Though I love to catch porgies on light tackle, I ached to catch one of the big weakfish that usually settled the boat pools lately. The big fish were incidental by-catches made by lucky porgy fishermen, but I figured that any knowledgeable fisherman could successfully fish specifically for weakfish if he knew what to do. It isn't hard to understand my reasoning either, once you stop to think about it. Both species are compatible in many of the same areas at the same time; they enjoy the same water temperature, and though they feed on some similar baits, there is no marked competition for food. In the Sound we fish for porgies with sandworm baits, which also happen to be excellent weakfish baits. The arguments rage on and on: live snapper vs. grass shrimp or squid strip over sandworm, but for sheer consistency I'll take sandworms every time. The trout love 'em and eat 'em like candy, which is why so many weakfish get caught by porgy fishermen each year.

Though I tried, the cruel fish gods were against me. I was strictly a spectator whenever we lucked into a weakfish blitz on a porgy party boat. I was rigged the same as everyone else and used the same bait, but never scored. The best I ever did was to come up with my worms sheared off at the bend of the hook one time. Close, but no cigar! No, my weakfish were caught readily enough when I was on my own, either from a beach or in a boat at night. I have even caught my share of weakfish while bluefishing, because those two species are compatible also, but never have I lucked-out while porgy fishing. I was determined to break that jinx or bust, which is why I made the trip that day in the rain. My luck was bound to change, by sheer odds if nothing else, right? Wrong!

When the big fish struck, it was getting late in the day. When you're on your own you call your own shots, make your own moves, come or go when you please, but on a party boat the captain is the boss. When it's time to go home, he blows three blasts on the whistle and that's it—whether you like it or not. We were pushing post time when one guy in the bow tied into a big weakfish, then two or three more anglers on both rails followed suit. I threw my reel into free spool and engaged the ratchet as I tied my rod to the rail, grabbed my camera and went sliding around the wet deck trying to capture some of the action on film. As I was snapping the photos, the railbirds at the stern called me to come running because a fish had struck my unattended line. Dropping the camera and grabbing the rod, I thought my jinx had ended for sure, but the fish proved to be a bluefish, caught on a sandworm bait and landed on a porgy hook. I slammed the fish to the deck, checked my leader for chopper damage, then re-baited with a couple of juicy sandworms and got back down to the bottom again in a hurry. The weakfish were still coming up all around the boat and I wanted another shot at them.

I was rewarded with an almost-instaneous hook-up as a big fish once again struck my worm bait, and I battled another big fish to the surface. It was another bluefish, but this time it cut through the mono leader as I was swinging it over the rail and bounced, luckily, on the deck, skidding along the teak as it beat its tail in frustration. Well, if it was gonna be bluefish only for me, let me at least do it right, I thought. So I tied on a diamond jig instead of a hook and decided to jig for my fish during the short time left before it was over for the day.

My jig struck pay dirt right away, too, and I battled another bluefish to the boat once again, my third blue in about five minutes. That fish went swimming down the wet deck after I shook it loose, to join the other two bluefish jammed into the stern corner pocket, and I cast my jig out in a hurry once again. The weakfish were still being caught on worms and jigs, so I felt that my chances were still fairly good. "You're retrieving that jig too fast," Eddie said to me. "If you want weakfish instead of bluefish, just crank the handle of the reel a couple of slow turns once the jig hits bottom, and hold onto your rod." Which is what I did, and which resulted in what happened at the beginning of my story. But the trip back home wasn't a recollection of regrets by any means; the day had been a good one after all, despite the lousy weather and my weakfish jinx. As we returned to City Island that evening, I wasn't even cursing any longer either. I was happy—happy enough to be singing in the rain!

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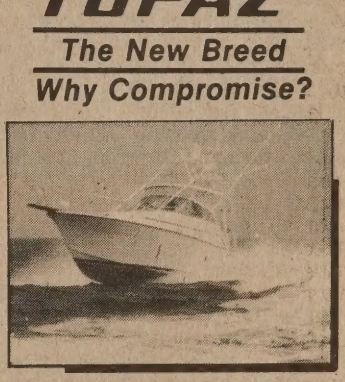

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ONE NIGHT AT SHAGWONG

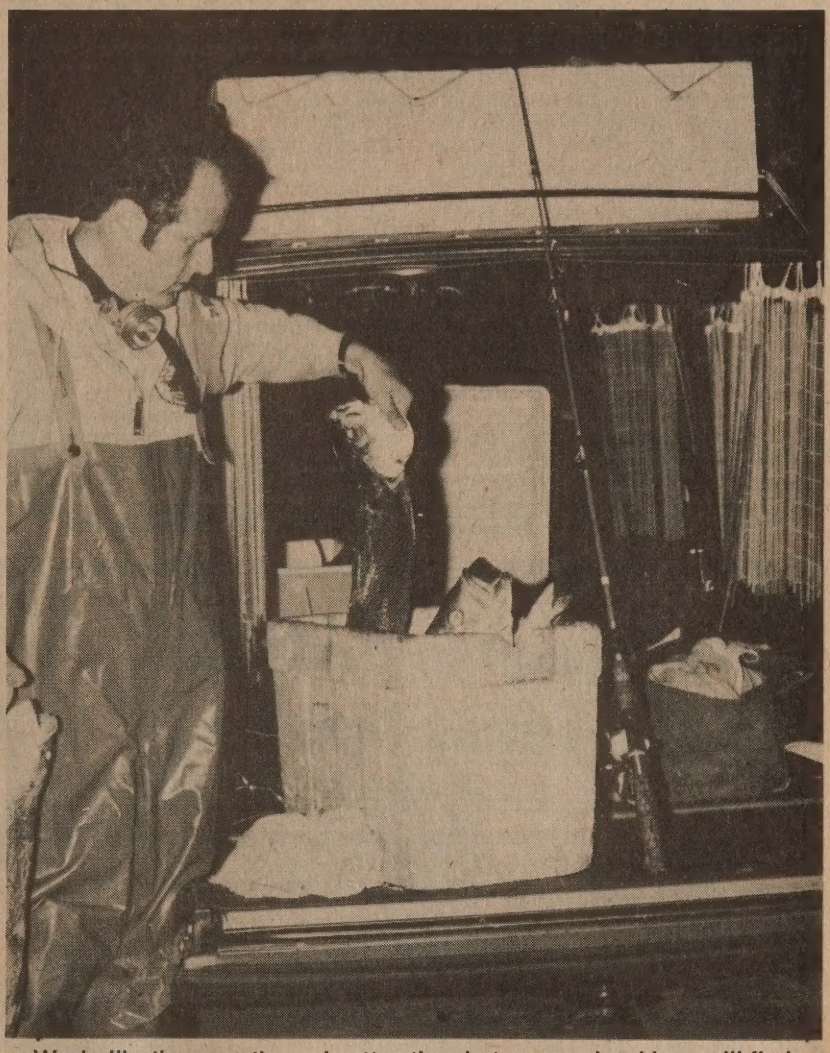
by John Fritz

A summer night in the Montauk surf provides a treasure-trove of pleasant memories for one group of dedicated beach rats.

The early afternoon traffic on the Long Island Expressway permitted one's mind to wander. Recollections of the experiences of the last trip to Shagwong were blended with plans for the ensuing night's fishing. A combination of factors, a substantial gathering of sand eels coupled with a lack of interest by the local netters, provided for a sustained period of exceptional surf fishing mostly for weakfish, but also striped bass of mixed sizes and small bluefish—the latter an annoying intrusion for anglers seeking other species.

Even though Montauk lies a considerable distance from most area surf fishermen, the opportunity to participate in such rewarding fishing under such pleasant surroundings makes the journey little more than a minor inconvenience. In fact, when well rested, the drive through the picturesque towns and rural settings, after one leaves behind the built-up sections of the western Island, can be a pleasure in itself. Key elements for enjoying a ride through eastern Suffolk are little traffic, being well rested, and being in no rush to catch a tide. This is especially true on the return journey, a trip too often made under tortuous circumstances while trying to stave off the unrelenting desire to fall asleep. Numerous cups of coffee, open windows and loud, blaring music from the truck's radio, do little to alleviate the overwhelming need to close one's eyes, a craving rejected temporarily when the frightening realization that you have wandered out of the lane shocks the system into wakefulness. Traveling companions do little to keep the driver alert, for without a pressing need to stay awake they succumb to unconsciousness in a short while, like George whose snores are competing with the radio by the time we climb the hill west of Montauk. One can only tempt fate so often before disaster strikes. Therefore, I now make it a practice to catch a few hours sleep after a full night's fishing, before attempting to drive back home.

As the panoramic view of Montauk Town suddenly intrudes upon one's reverie, the need for physical action replaces the visionary activities of the past few hours. With more than four hours to spend before sunset, three important stops must be made in town before heading to the beach. The first, a short rap session with Johnny at Kronuch's Tackle Shop, where the latest word on fishing is obtained along with a few assorted items of tackle. After which, a hamburger and coffee are gulped down, for once the fishing starts, little time will be spent preparing a hot meal on the Coleman stove. These warm summer nights require little more than a quick sandwich and a beer to sustain one through the night. Lastly, because of the season's warmth, a block or two of ice from Duryea's machine will ensure that any fish kept will remain prime table fare.



Weaks like these are the main attraction, but an occasional bass will find its way onto the stringer. Photo by W.A. Muller.

With the errands in town completed, it is only a matter of minutes before reaching the Ranger Station on East Lake Drive where the overnight pass is received in exchange for one dollar and the prior possession of a Suffolk County Beach Vehicle Permit. After airing down at the end of the hard dirt road, the first view of the water and distant Shagwong Point evokes a quickening of the pulse as the realization sets in that the last leg of the journey is now over. The gentle lapping of the waves against the

(Continued on next page.)

shore, the glistening white sand studded here and there by the remains of a once mighty tree and the screechings of the tireless terns as they plunge into the blue waters to secure food for their young is the setting for the exciting events in store for this night. The slow passage along the established track is used to scan the nearby waters for signs of bait concentrations with maybe more than a quick glance at any scantily clad beauties trying to catch the last rays of a sun already heavily inclined towards the western horizon.

Upon reaching the area known as the Cattle Fence, it is noted that two buggies are pulled off the track with most occupants loafing around but one or two making some adjustments to their tackle. These dallying fishermen recall to mind that on a previous trip fishing was better here than at the highly regarded Point—a thought to keep in mind should fish be hard to come by further on.

Several hundred yards down the beach the track veers slightly north as the sand dunes give way to the bluffs comprising Shagwong Point. At this point is found the first cluster of rocks, the beginning of a 200 yard stretch of boulders before the bottom again becomes all sand. From here the entire shore to the Point itself is visible and it is with a sigh of relief to learn that there are only six or eight buggies scattered along the shoreline with most of these being overnight campers clustered around the Point. Even though the prime fishing area extends over several hundred yards, crowds of anglers restrict the freedom to move up and down the shore, a practice which frequently results in more fish in the box. Even during the vacation season the weekday nights still provide the room for one to wander at will, for many of the family men in the campers will, after a time, renounce the chill waters for warmth awaiting them in their mobile homes.

The truck is pulled off the tract at a point midway between the westernmost cluster of rocks and the massive sand bar extending seaward from the Point itself, a location sufficiently removed to prevent disturbing any of the families, but one that is equidistant to the entire fishing area.

After the usual trading of stories and expectations for the night ahead with several acquaintances, all undertaken with one eye on the water and the sun's approach to the horizon, each angler saunters back to his own rig to take care of last minute equipment adjustments. Once again, the plug bag is checked, the hooks have all been sharpened, tags included should any striped bass be taken, several assorted feather and Red Gill teasers stored in separate plastic envelopes, and to ensure that the favorite plugs are in the proper compartments so that they can be found without resorting to the neck light. Weighted yellow, silver and black Hellcats are in place, so are the blue and pearl and the red and white weighted 5 inch RedFins and the red and white MirrOlures. Two small, yellow Super Strike darters which have had the tail treble replaced with a single feathered hook are also included. Completing the collection are two different colored 5 inch sinking Rebels, a silver, jointed 4 inch RedFin and a weighted 7 inch yellow RedFin. If the fishing is hot, the bag, in all probability, will be left in the truck; but for the initial hours of the night all lures which have been productive in the past will be carried to the water.

From personal experience over the past few trips and from conversations with those frequenting the area it is decided that there is no need for donning the wet suit, the fish have been well within reach of shore and there is no need to wade off the Point onto the sand bar with its shifting sands and powerful currents.

As darkness descends upon the land, surfmen all along the shore stroll towards their preferred places. A few gather at the bar while the western rocks play host to a lone angler, but most line up at the eastern edge of the rocks on the left side of the cove before it begins its slight curve towards the Point. Choosing a nine foot rod fitted with a Penn 710

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reel which has been recently spooled with 10 pound test Ande line, it is time to join the line of anglers already in the water. Everything is perfect, a gentle breeze from the southwest, the ebbing tide is just beginning to ripple about the exposed boulders, and a slim crescent moon is barely visible in the eastern sky foretelling a darkened night—one preferred by most over the illuminated landscape associated with a full moon.

Pushing slowly into the chill, clear water, the frightened sand eels skitter and pop about the legs, a welcome indication that there is an abundance of bait. Clipping on a Red Gill teaser and small yellow darter to the Duo-Lock snap while sliding my feet along the bottom to avoid tripping over one of the many rocks littering the shore, all senses are tuned to the activities about me. Off in the distance, beyond the intermittent whoosh as fellow anglers fling their bits of wood and plastic into the blackness, can be heard a sporadic pop, a desirable sound which indicates that the weakfish are beginning to feed. As the water level reaches the surf belt, the darter is cast slightly to the left so that it will sweep in a slow arc across my front with the outgoing tide. Before the plug hits the water there is a violent eruption to my right as a weakfish engulfs someone's lure and reacts to the bite of a treble hook in its jaw. Fantastic; this is going to be a great night.

Several other fish are taken up and down the line before I feel an ever so slight bump which is answered by a sharp backward heave on the rod. Thankfully, my reaction encounters resistance. Now a life and death struggle ensues as line is rapidly stripped from the reel under the forceful run of the fish as it races towards freedom. After a few hours of steady action, the fishing suddenly dies. A time to unload the stringer, have a cigarette and beer and decide on another spot along the shore.

Next it's to the Point, where a few more fish are taken on Hellcats before moving into the cove and enjoying a solid hour of dynamite fishing, using the MirrOlure, directly in front of the slumbering occupants in the campers. By three o'clock the tide has run its course, a time to take a break while determining whether to call it a night or fish the incoming till dawn. Fishing such as this occurs all too infrequently during the course of a season, so the latter option is put into effect.

Back at the Point, only now the left side is worked on the reverse tide, a few more fish are added to the total before the brightening of the eastern sky forecasts the approaching sunrise and the fish retreat to their daytime haunts.

With gear stowed and the truck backed against the dunes further down the beach towards the Oyster Pond, even the exciting thoughts of the previous night does not keep me awake for a minute after my head hits the pillow.

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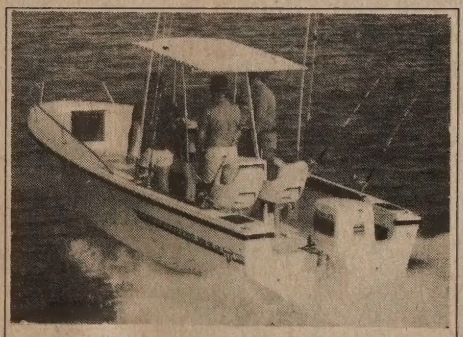

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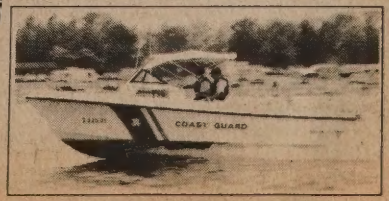


GET A LINE ON TOWING

by Ray Hendrickson

Even the ablest skippers among us are bound to wind up on the short end of a tow line sooner or later.

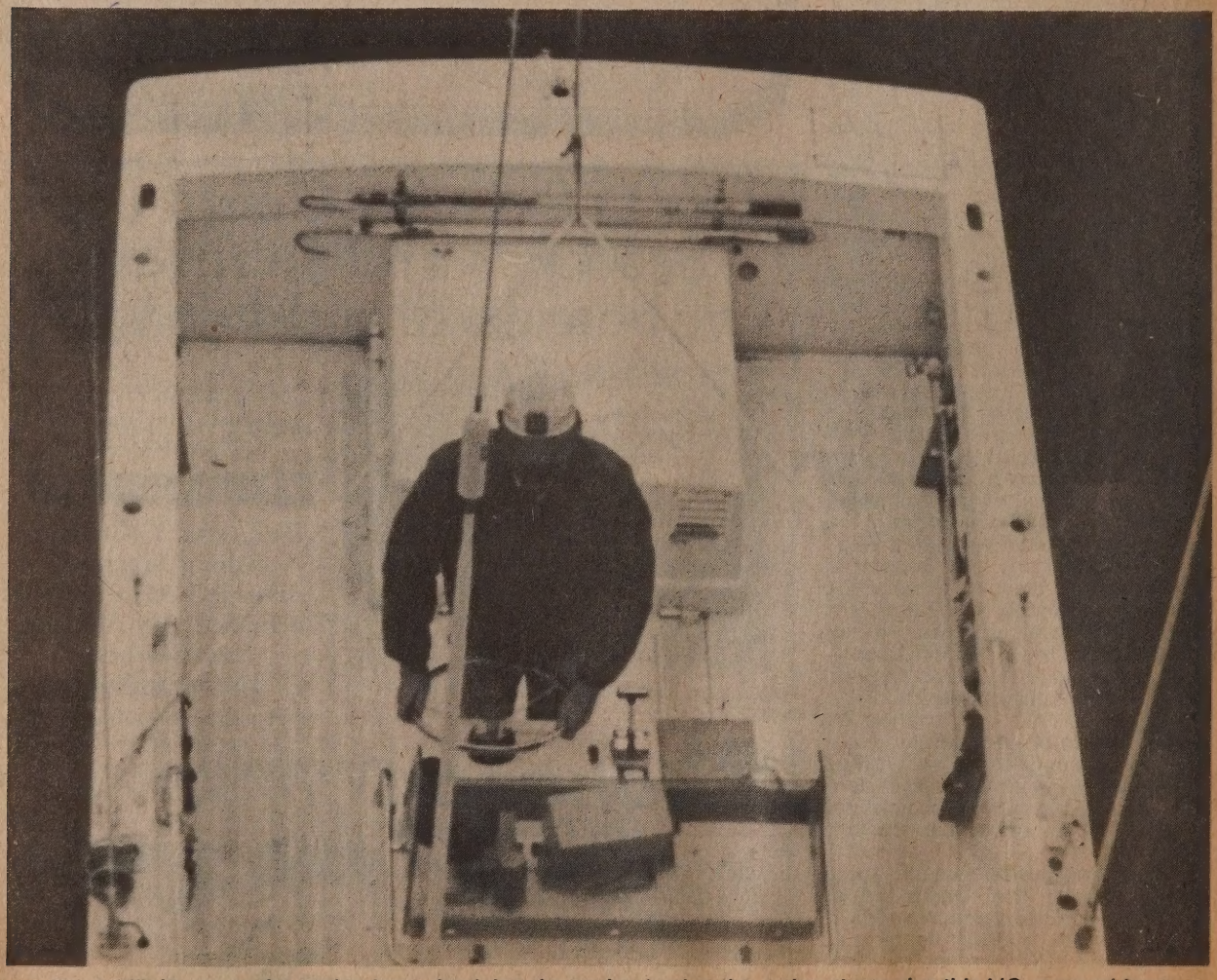
As sure as bigger fish eat little fish, if you put your time in on the briny you will—sooner or later—be hitched to a tow line. Whether it's off your bow, or your stern, is immaterial. A basic understanding of towing procedure is independent of who's doing what to whom.

Chances are your maiden tow will be a routine affair with light airs and calm seas; but if the weather is acting up, a raunchy inlet straddles the course or the boats are grossly mismatched in size—the potential for proceedings going awry makes for young gray-haired insurance agents.

More than likely your boat will be doing the pulling, because for every boat in trouble there's a veritable Navy of sportsmen out there ready to help. Rendering assistance to fellow skippers goes with the territory. Still, it's equally important that you appreciate the basics should you be on the trailing end of the line. The skipper who comes to help you may be willing to a fault, but simply not have the slightest grasp of how to go about it. Common sense and a cool head sorts out most situations, but the uninitiated will benefit from some brief explanations.

Communication is a prerequisite to successful towing. First, the disabled skipper must thoroughly explain his predicament. It just **might** be that you or someone in your crew can repair a balky engine or steering system; even possibly patch a leak. Secondly, the aiding boatman must explain exactly what he is going to do, and why; everything from getting a line aboard to the course back home, and how the tow will terminate.

The disabled skipper must completely comprehend the pending scenario before the operation starts. The one in trouble will have a raft of matters on his mind, running the gamut from care for physical safety to considerable financial worries relative to fixing whatever it is that went wrong. Doubt and confusion have elicited more than their share of



The bridle in use on the towing boat. Applying the towing load to the spring cleats give this I/O powered boat excellent steering capability.

comedy situations. They've also precipitated far too many tragedies.

Talking the situation over while side by side before passing the line is the favored way, but communication may better be accomplished by radio when weather prohibits gunwale-to-gunwale conversation. If both boats have effective radio communication, every step of the procedure need not necessarily be discussed before starting. Yet it's a good idea to at least draw a thumbnail sketch in case communications break down after you're on your way.

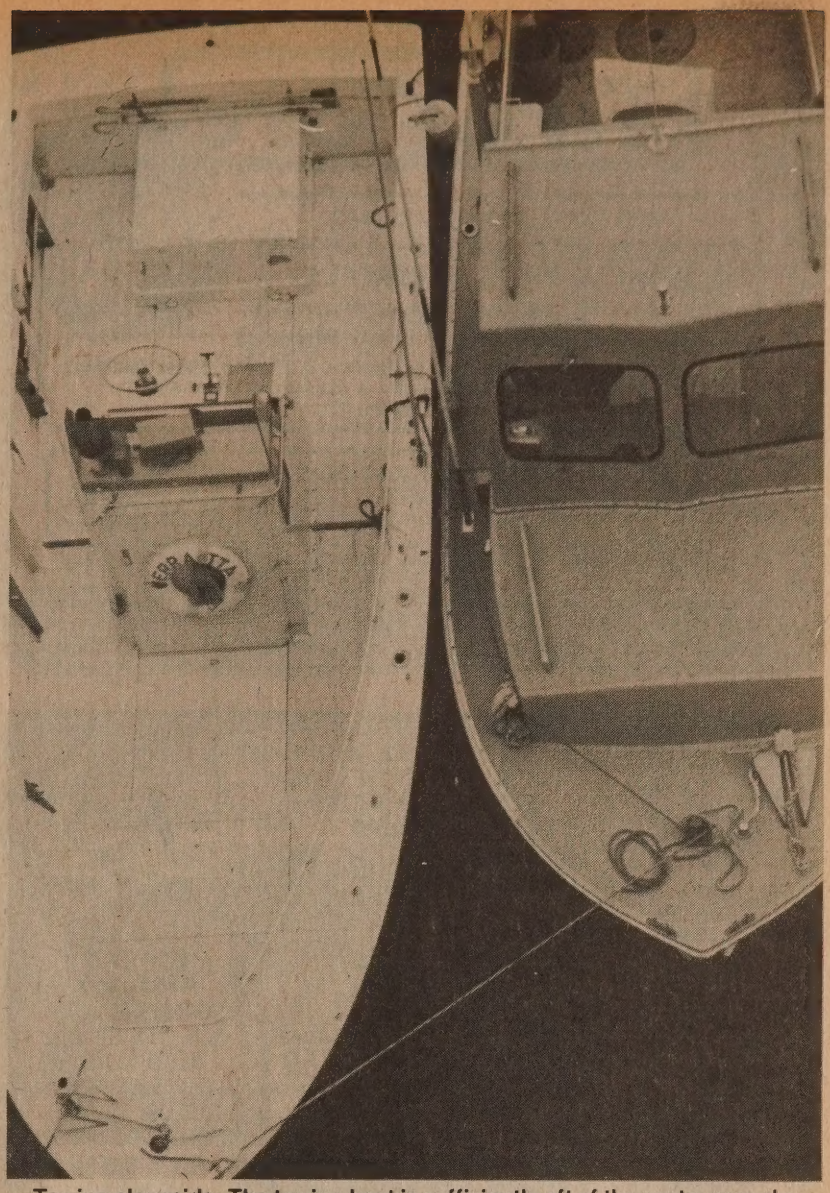
Although it's probably overdoing it a little to notify the Coast Guard before towing a boat across a calm, sun-dappled, bay—be darned sure to radio them before starting a major tow, whether the magnitude is defined by the distance involved, sea conditions, or by imminent peril of the disabled boat's condition deteriorating.

Depending upon these conditions, towing compromises the safety of both vessels to some degree. Let the Coast Guard in on what's going on. Once alerted they'll stand by to react immediately if required. Should conditions warrant, they'll advise that you stand by the striken vessel until they come out and take it in tow. Yes, once you call them you do open the Pandora's question box. They **will** ask for the names of the boats, number of occupants, home port, type of trouble, and so on. Abide with them. It's all part of a proven procedure called getting the facts straight.

In some instances the Coast Guard will advise (akin to a direct order) that a boat not be taken in tow. One that's swamped or taking on water may very well be sunk by towing. Do everything you can to help stem the flood, dewater, and to see to the crew's safety. Maintain contact with the Coast Guard, and anyone else who can get pumps to the scene. Should a boat be capsized, get its crew safely aboard your boat and establish its location as accurately as your means allow.

Conversely, if attempting to get a line aboard a boat that's about to enter the surf or carry onto a rock pile—can the chatter and get a line on it any way you can to move the boat seaward. (But don't grab his stern if it's an outboard, or an inboard with scant freeboard.) A final admonition, if I may, before getting into tactics: never—under any circumstances—should you unduly imperil your boat. If conditions suddenly degrade from poor to disastrous your boat will be the only immediate haven for a very distressed crew.

Unless seas are glassy, don't approach the disabled boat closely enough to hand over the tow line. Getting that close can be asking for trouble. The average boat's anchor line (invariably doubling as the tow line) is adequate for towing if it's sized to the boat, and it's light enough to heave without resorting to a messenger line. Bunch up a few feet at the end, half-hitch the glob and heave it—tending the line to avoid fouling it in in the prop. Should the seas (and you) get too nervous to permit approaching within heaving distance, pay the line out on a PFD and tow it across the disabled boat's stern where it can be gaffed aboard.



Towing alongside: The towing boat is sufficiently aft of the center console boat to gain steering authority. Running forward, the line from the tow boat's bow to the other's spring cleat (the line is padded at the cabin trunk) takes the strain. Going astern, a line (barely visible in this photo) from the tow boat's stern to the spring cleat exercises control; as does the breast line from bow to bow. Fenders at the stern and amidship prevent scarring either hull.

Securing the tow line at both ends is paramount. The line should run directly off the disabled boat's bow. If it doesn't have a centerline cleat or chock, make a rope bridle to take the line: essentially a triangle with two corners fastened to whatever cleats are available near the bow, and the tow line bent to the bridle's apex and aligned with the boat's keel line. Don't skimp on chafing gear when it's needed; T-shirts or whatever is available wrapped around sore points. Of course, it's understood that the deck hardware must be adequate for the strain. If you have to tie to some of the pot metal garbage (with complementing accent stripes) that adorns some boats, double-up to whatever else you can. If necessary, run the bridle around the console or the cabin to take the major part of the strain.

The towing boat should also take the strain on its keel line, and more importantly, at a point **forward** of the rudder or steerable propeller. A towing boat can handle an appreciably heavier boat when the line's strain is taken well ahead of the towing boat's pivot point. If fastened to the towing boat's aft cleats or ski-tow rings—bridled or not—any-

(Continued on next page.)

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thing heftier than a dinghy will act as one gigantic sea anchor, virtually destroying steering capability.

Few boats boast a towing post in the cockpit, but most have spring cleats amidship. Bridle to these and you'll exercise adequate steering capability. Both crews had better diligently tend the line, taking care not only to keep clear of it, but to act with becoming alacrity if something goes awry. Keep a sharp blade handy at both ends! Contrary to general belief, a tow line that is sufficiently long for the job will not come snaking aboard bent on decapitation if it parts. But if a torn-out deck cleat is riding on the free end of the whip—under the gunwale, guys!

How long should the line be? In open water, 100 feet should be the minimum. Twice, even three times longer, in rough water. When in doubt, longer is better; softening shocks by virtue of its elasticity, weight and catenary. (A catenary is the curve that is **always** present in a line, no matter how large or tight. It may be nearly undetecable just before it breaks, but there's always some sag in any line.)

Just as the proper towing speed for a given situation soon becomes evident by the "feel" at the helm, the "loaded," but not unduly strained tone of the engine, and the towed boat's behavior, proper distance between boats is evidenced by both boats keeping "in step." Admittedly, waves don't roll on in precise order, but except for maverick seas, both boats should ride crests and troughs in unison—but not the same ones! Strain is needlessly magnified, and power wasted, when the tow boat is skiing down the face of one sea while trying to haul the other boat out of a hole.

Running an inlet, particularly a narrow breachway running richly with the tide, is better accomplished with shortened line and minimal speed required for steerage-way. The shorter tow improves maneuverability and lesser revs tend to counteract strains. Here is where the disabled boat's skipper worries most, for all he can do is steer the other boat's track (assuming it's not his rudder that came a cropper).

Watching the seas march up and slide by without intimate throttle control is a disconcerting adventure. A good seaman never really feels safe without complete control in his own hands, but there's little he can do when under tow except kick up his fretting throttle another notch. Of course, the towing skipper, bridled with dual responsibility, carries on his own share of fretting.

But a modicum of worry-warting is beneficial, heightening a sense of caution when most needed. However, if inlet conditions wouldn't normally bother you when running solo you shouldn't have undue problems tugging another behind. Just don't shorten line over-zealously. The real-time vision of the towed boat surfing

down your wake—intent upon piggy-backing in your cockpit—is awesome!

The toughest task is frequently on the backside of the inlet, threading narrow channels peppered with drifting, trolling and anchored fishing boats. Water skiers and **non compos mentis** hot-rodders tender additional exasperation. At times, particularly if the towed boat is considerably larger than the leader, it's advantageous to take the former alongside—but only when waters are sufficiently calm that adequate fendering will preclude the two boats eating each other's sides.

Two lines are essential when towing alongside, and relative position is equally salient. The towing boat must be aft of the other boat's pivot point, but there's scant need for measurements. Keeping the powered boat slightly astern of the other boat's mid-point will be adequate. One spring line is run from the towing boat's bow to the other's stern (or nearly so) to take running-ahead forces. A second spring is carried aft from the towed boat's bow to provide a tension line for control when backing down. (Imminent collision with a dock or water skier would be two reasons for backing down.) A pair of breast lines, although not absolutely essential, help to package both boats into one cohesive unit.

Towing alongside is frequently the only means to lay a disabled boat alongside the dock at a crowded marina. Cantankerous winds and currents heighten the need for absolute control in close quarters where the potential for damage is greatest. Which raises the soggy spectre of legal and civil entanglement.

In simplest terms (although nothing in maritime law is **simple**), the onus of performing without causing damage is purely upon the towing skipper. The skipper accepting the tow rides legally free and clear. Although the consensus of legal authorities and insurance people is that the person towing is not blamable for damage caused during the two if he **acts in a prudent manner**; the definition of "prudent" is open to argument—a field of expertise kept in chaos by high-priced lawyers.

There's even a hooker in the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, commonly called the "good Sam" clause. Paraphrased, it states that a captain involved in a collision cannot be held liable for civil damages while towing the other vessel as an act of rendering assistance—and he **must** render assistance, or face the judge. But it also states that he must act in the same manner as would a prudent man in similar circumstances!

So what do we do? Keep our noses clean and wave as we breeze by a disabled boat? Ignore waving flags and radioed distress signals?

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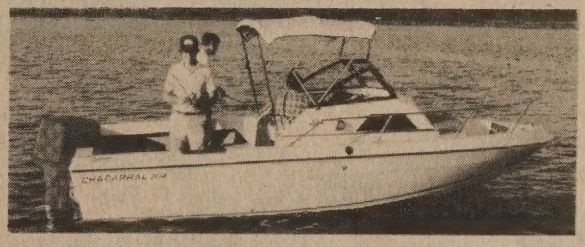
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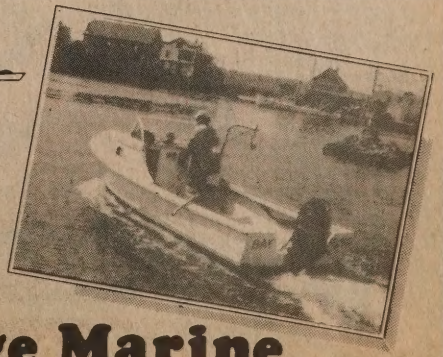
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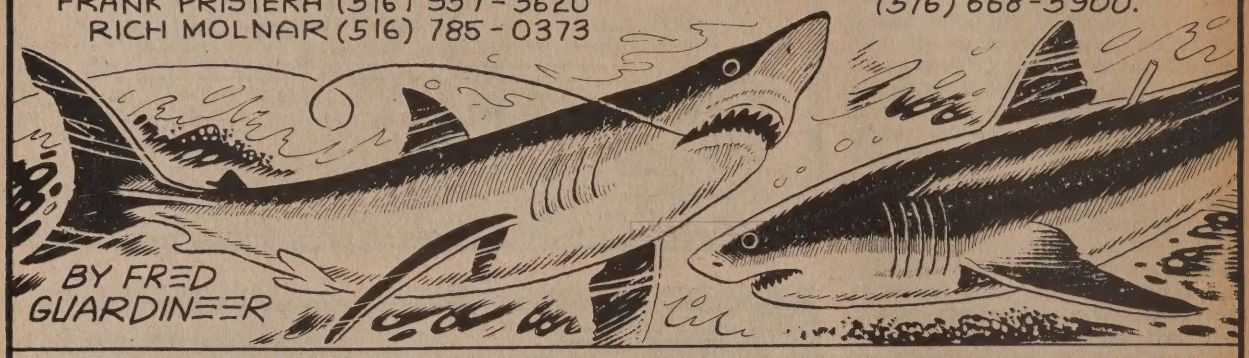

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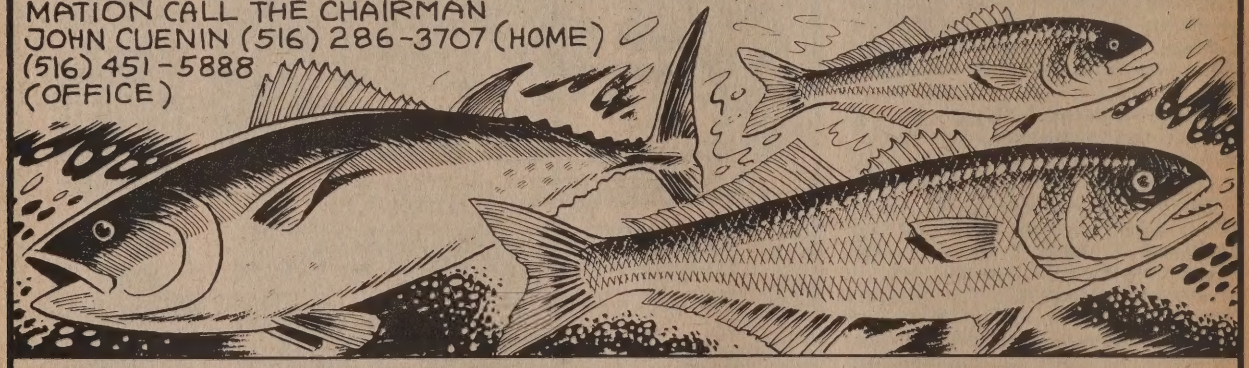

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LARGEMOUTHS LIKE PLASTIC

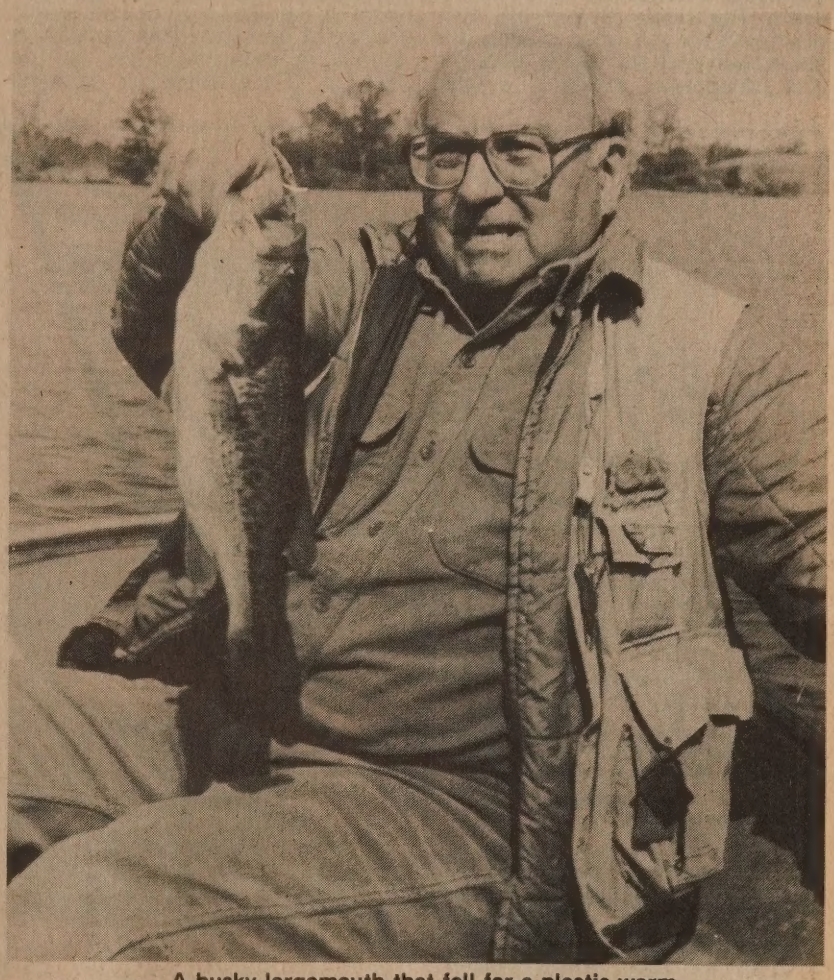
by Angelo Peluso

Plastic worms and lizards too, account for a lions share of lure caught black bass.

When it comes to black bass lures, one design stands out from the rest: the artificial plastic worm. The "worm" has proven itself to be one of the most consistent of all bass catching baits. This lethal lure probably accounts for more bass during a given season than any other type of artificial. This effectiveness is directly related to the plastic worm's surprising versatility. Especially on Long Island, it can be fished in a number of ways and under a number of different conditions. I have chosen to discuss this lure first since it can add a totally new dimension to any bass angler's fishing. Incidentally, all that is described pertaining to the plastic worm is equally as true of the plastic lizard.

If you ask any number of avid Long Island bass fishermen to describe their favorite lure, most would refer to the deadly plastic worm. Since its arrival on the Long Island fishing scene, these plastic wonders have managed to induce more than their share of strikes and lunker fish. Bass simply cannot resist the tantalizing, bottom-bouncing action of the worm. A properly rigged worm can be fished almost totally weedless, among the obstructions where big bass lurk. Seductive movements are built-in qualities of plastic worm construction. It is the combination of movement and location fished that enables the plastics to be so effective, and as though it were a living, natural form of prey.

Taking a look at the popular trend in worm fishing, we will see one technique standing out as the primary method used when fishing plastic worms. This particular method gained its popularity due to its consistent success on the bass tournament trail. It is practiced amost exclusively by many worm fishermen. I refer to the traditional bottom bouncing technique. When using this tactic, the fisherman must first rig the bait in the conventional "Texas rig" fashion. With this rig, either a straight or offset worm hook is embedded, by its point, into the head of the plastic worm. A six inch worm would be fitted with either a 1/0, 2/0 or 3/0 hook, while 4/0 and 5/0 will suffice for a worm of seven or eight inches. Once in the worm, the hook is drawn down approximately a half inch, with the point and shaft pulled through the worm at the half inch mark, reversed and re-embedded into the body. Bear in mind that the worm should, at all times, be kept STRAIGHT. It might be helpful for you to measure off the location on the body of the worm that will offer a straight rigging and place the hook back into the exact spot.



A husky largemouth that fell for a plastic worm.

Another feature of the Texas rig is the use of a slip sinker. This type of lead weight allows the worm to be fished in a manner that enables it to reach deep water locations quickly. The slip sinker is threaded onto the line prior to tying on the worm hook. As a freely moving weight, it becomes an integral part of the worm when inhaled by a bass. The combination of hook, worm and sinker is taken in by the fish. When fishing Long Island waters, I use slip weights of 1/8 to 1/4 ounces. When tying the rig to your line, it would be advisable to utilize either an improved clinch knot or a Palomar knot.

With the worm rigged in this fashion, the angler casts to either visible or sub-surface structure and allows the bait to descend to the bottom. Often, a bass will hit the worm as it falls toward the bottom. It is at this time that the angler should be alert to any line movement which might indicate a striking bass. But, most often the strike will come following a few deliberate and slow jigging motions. A very critical point is the first lift of the rod. If a bass sees the bait fall but doesn't strike, the first movement will usually induce a response. If the worm is jerked with

(Continued on next page.)

too quick a motion, it is very possible and extremely likely that the bass will bite and reject the bait before there is an opportunity to set the hook.

When spot casting in shallow areas, it is beneficial to vary the method of retrieve. After a cast is made, the worm should be allowed to settle to the bottom and then be "bounced" or slowly jigged back. As an alternate method, the worm can be kept near the surface by keeping the rod tip high. When utilizing this approach, I like to vibrate the rod tip thereby imparting a wiggling action to the worm. The wiggle retrieve has been productive for me when casting into and around pads and weeds. Bass will also occasionally attack a wiggled worm within a few feet of the boat, so it pays to be alert. Retrieves should be intermittently altered by changing the speed of the retrieve since a bass' preferences can constantly change from one day to the next and during the course of the same day.

Most of the difficulty associated with plastic worm fishing relates to hook setting. This phase of worming can be a very tricky affair, especially to the novice. As a matter of practicality, it becomes necessary to watch the line. The first indicator of a hit is most often a twitching movement of the line; a quick and erratic change of direction. This situation is known in bass parlance, as the Pick-Up. If the fisherman responds too soon, the worm will land back in his lap. A late response and the fish will drop the bait as if it were a hot potato. Though I miss my share of hits, I have found that one important key to a successful day of worming is to make careful note of how the bass take and mouth the worm. I have always maintained that a miss can teach you as much, if not more, than a score.

If you find that the bass are hitting rather short, it might be necessary to give an additional bit of line to allow the fish to take in more of the worm, thus having it better positioned for the strike. On some occasions, a quite set will be the key to success; while on others, a few seconds lapse might be needed. In certain situations I choose to fish a plastic worm weightless. Long Island bass have a tendency to hit a freely floating worm as if it were a plug. In these instances, your best bet would be to strike back quickly. The experiences of many bass fishermen have shown that your success ratio for hooked fish will depend a great deal on your ability to read a strike. Bass react in different ways, and the angler will have to adjust accordingly.

As mentioned in the opening paragraph of this section, the plastic worm can be fished in a number of ways and under different sets of conditions. Due to the current variety of sizes, shapes and colors, the worm can also be adapted to complement other bass baits. Consider the jig and eel combination or the effect of adding a worm tail to a spinnerbait. Color has been a key factor in the efficiency, effectiveness and adaptability of the plastic baits. The spectrum-ranging assortment of available colors can easily match the light conditions found in practically all of the bass producing depths. Light penetration is crucial in bass fishing, and the angler's ability to match the right color to the available light is often the difference between success and failure. Sometimes it is but a subtle change in shade that pushes a fish to strike. This consideration of color is what makes it essential to have a working assortment of worm colors available. Examine a true wormin' angler's tackle box and I am certain that you will find a wide variety of colors. Some newcomers may question the effectiveness of unnatural looking worms, but each has a time and a place. I currently like to stock an assortment of colors which includes: black, purple, red, blue and motor oil. Black is probably the most universally accepted and is, therefore, many bass fishermen's favorite. Purple runs a very close second. A black worm tends to blend in naturally in dark or stained water. The generally accepted rule is to use dark baits on dark days and in dark water, while using light colors on bright days and in clear water. But, Mr. Bass is too unpredictable a critter for the rule to be absolute—so experiment. It would also be worth your while to keep a

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One variation to worm fishing that will be helpful to the Long Island angler fishing shallow water lakes and ponds is to fish the worm titally weightless. In this fashion, the worm has the potential to be fished as either a top water pad or weed lure. In pad, weed or shallow water situations, try fishing the worm or lizard unweighted. Rig the lure by threading a 2/0 hook through the head of the worm and out the under-portion of the body. Reverse the point back into the body in Texas rig fashion.

With this setup the worm is able to slither, unhindered, over and around the pads and weeds. The weightlessness enables the fisherman to work the lure as a vibrating and pulsating "living" worm. Also, the absence of weight allows the worm to slowly flutter to the bottom in a very seductive way. It should be noted that this form of a rig is not at all practical for use in deeper water. Five or six feet is about the maximum depth that the angler can effectively use this rig. For deeper water, the angler risks losing too much control when bottom bouncing the worm.

On a final note, I'd like to make a specific reference to artificial lizards. Though I'd been using lizards for quite sometime as occasional alternates for worms, it wasn't until a few seasons back that I discovered the real magic of these plastic variants. I'd received a sample package of motor oil colored lizards and summarily stashed them away in my worm box. During the opening weekend of that particular season I was fishing with a friend on my favorite bass pond when an opportunity to use my new additions presented itself.

Throughout the day we both managed a number of bass on plugs and spinnerbaits. But toward the early afternoon the action slowed considerably with only an occasional straggler responding to our lures. It seemed an appropriate time to try something new. Rummaging through the tackle boxes in search of the "answer" I came upon the lizard pack. At first I merely moved it aside to get a better look at what lay underneath.

Not finding what I wanted, I began to think about the lizards. This particular variety represented a new design and in all honesty, the things in the package looked like aliens from outer space—so absurd looking were they I figured the bass had yet to see the likes of them. I picked one of the plastic critters out of its bag and rigged it Texas style, but weightless. Upon testing the lizard's action, I became quite impressed with the motor oil coloration. As the lizard entered the water it took on an almost natural silhouette. I began to get excited about the possibilities. Another positive feature was the lizard's weight. It had considerable bulk and could, therefore, be cast weightless with relative ease from my lightweight casting outfit.

I decided to fish the lizard among the pads by skittering it over the tops in a rapid manner. I was hoping to get a "rise" out of bass that might be holding in the water under the pads. Once an initial response is gotten the lure is slowed down and allowed to drop into the first opening in the pads. This technique had proved successful in the past, especially during the early to mid-afternoon hours—and the time was right to try it again. Hopefully, the lizard would be a bit of an additional inducement. I wasn't disappointed. On the very first cast I hooked, caught and released a fine two pound largemouth. A few casts later, another bass—then another. I began to return to spots that had been unproductive just a short while before, but this time caught fish. I started to wonder whether this change of luck was really attributable to the lizards or rather to the discovery of a pattern or a new feeding period. But regardless of the cause, the fact remained that no matter where I tossed that lizard, fish would pounce on it. I guess one could argue that a number of factors contributed to the bass turning on, but I'll always believe that the motor oil lizards were the real answer.

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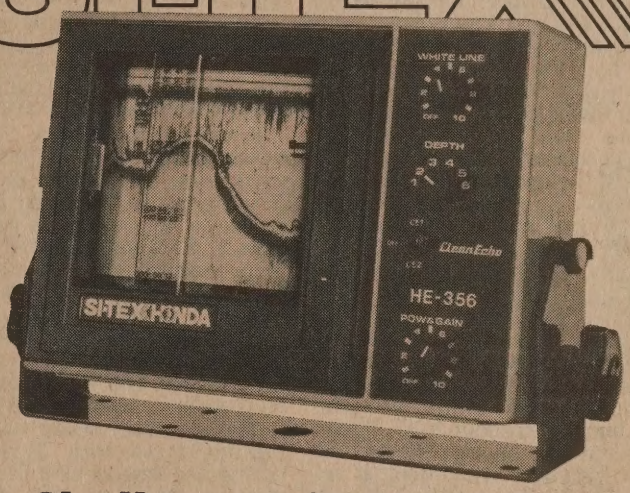

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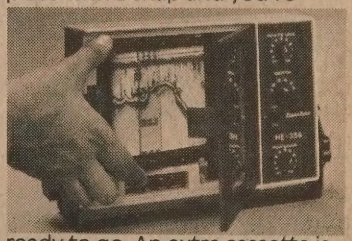

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★ FLUKE EAST ★ GARDINER'S ISLAND

by Jon Diat

Fluke fishing on the eastern end of Long Island has grown steadily the last few years. To many, Montauk remains the mecca for the flatfish, but Gardiner's Island, located seven miles to the northwest of Montauk, has shown an increase in the numbers of anglers fishing there in the summer months.

The area between its northernmost point and the Ruins extending eastward, are prime fluke grounds. Not only have the fish been abundant in recent years, but the size of the fish are generally larger than those caught anywhere else on Long Island, including Montauk.

While at times on weekends, the area can get a bit crowded, it is large enough so that most anglers can be assured of a decent catch.

Generally, an incoming tide will produce the most consistent action. If you are unfamiliar with the area, stick with the fleet. But if you are fishing with only a few boats around (which is very likely during the week), start a drift about 500 yards to the northeast of black buoy #3 in about 30 to 35 feet of water (see Chart A #1). The bottom is very irregular with depths as shallow as 15 feet which causes noticeable ripples on the water when the tide is moving swiftly.

There are about four of these rises in the drifting area, and make sure that you give out and take in line with the erratic depths. The tide can move extremely fast at times, so keep an eye on your line. Two or three ounces of lead should do the trick on most occasions, but as much as five may be necessary at times.

Your first drift of the day should be a long one (about 20 to 30 minutes) to get an idea on the location of the fish. It may be wise to carry a marker buoy along to mark the fish, but on most occasions this is not necessary since the general area is equally suppled with fish.

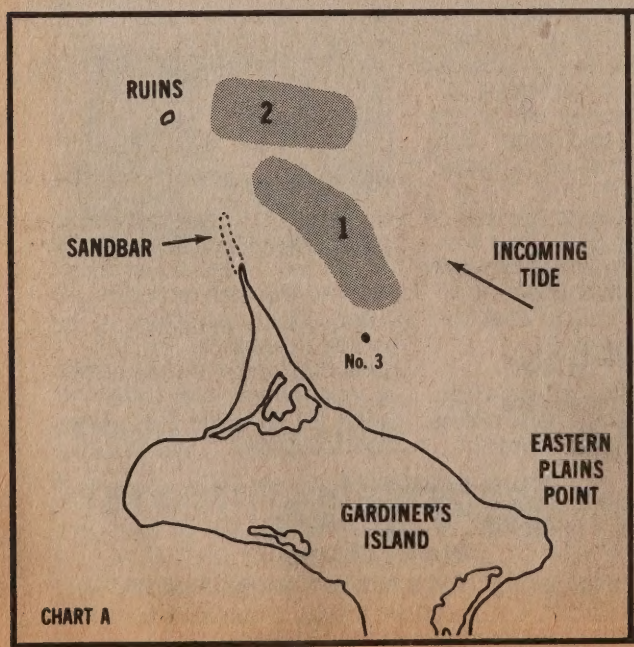
In this particular area, the fish can be large, with my personal best being 10 pounds, and plenty of fish over five. An added bonus on some trips will be a couple of sea bass in the bucket. It's a waste of time to fish for them specifically in the area, but you stand a good shot at landing a few, especially in June and July.

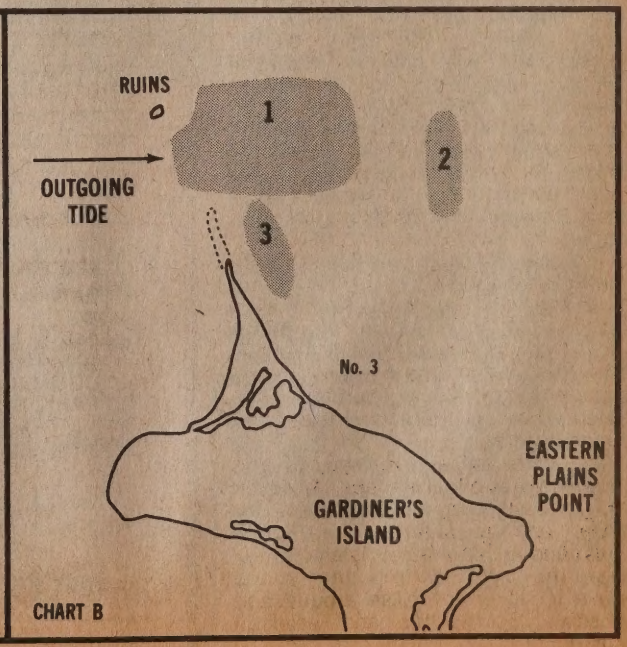
Another good area on the incoming tide is a spot closer to the Ruins (Chart A #2). There is no exact area to fish, but position the boat about a half a mile southeast of the ruins and let the tide do the trick. Steady fishing can be had here as long as the tide is moving. Once the tide stops, the fishing will die, and you may feel like dropping a line for a few large porgies off Eastern Plains Point for awhile, till the tide reverses itself.

Fishing on the outgoing tide is a little different. Most boats will start a drift almost parallel with the long sand bar extending out to the ruins and drift in an east-southeasterly direction covering a wide range of ground (Chart B #1). Fluke tend to gather closer to the sand bar on the outgoing than on the incoming, possibly waiting for baitfish being washed off the bar for an easy meal. The action can tend to be more erratic on this tide as there are no real concentrations of fish, but solid catches can be made if you hunt.

Another good area is located about one half mile southeast of the ruins (Chart B #2). The water runs deep (about 40 to 55), but the action can be quite good if the fish slow down in shallow water. The particular area can produce some fine scores on weaks and blues on diamond jigs or umbrellas. If you spot some birds working, give it a shot. Last July saw some excellent catches of both.

You may also want to try some action in shallow water if all else fails near the sand bar (Chart B #3). Fishing in about six to ten feet of water has saved the day a couple of times when the other areas have failed. Position the boat a hundred yards or so from the sand bar and rip and let the tide take you out. Some surprising action can take place and





even a few semi-doormats lurk here as well.

If you catch a sundial, don't throw it back! It is probably the best bait that you can use, especially when porgies and sea robins are thick. In combination with the sundial strip, use spearing, fresh if possible. Killies can be dynamite bait at times, especially in water less than 30 feet deep. But for some reason, killies knock the fish dead one day and won't take a fish the next. Bring along a package or two of spearing just in case. Sand eels can be effective, too, at times.

If you'd like to experiment and have some fun at the same time, try using a white bucktail with a sundial strip and gently skirt it along the bottom. The results can be surprising. Another fine bait, especially late in the season is live snappers. You may not catch as many fish, but if it's quality you are after, snappers are dynamite.

Nonetheless, of my largest fish caught, most of them were caught on small baits which seems to dispute the big bait for big fish theory. But if there is a lesson to be learned about Gardiner's Island fluke, make sure that strip baits are no wider than 3/4 inches at the widest and cut a narrow taper to the end. The bait should flutter gently and effortlessly in the water. This just drives the fluke wild.

Generally, stick with a #5 Sproat hook with a three foot leader. Don't use special gadgets and flashing spinners as it has a tendency to spook the fish. A plain Sproat will outfish a fancy rig by at least three to one out at Gardiner's. Smaller and lighter hooks can be employed when using killies, but you may be bothered by porgies which, at times, seem to be all over the place. Stick with the three foot leader tied to either a dropper loop or a swivel a few inches above the sinker. Also, bring along a large landing net should you happen upon a real doormat.

While some areas of Long Island enjoy a run of fluke as early as the second or third week of May, the fishing out East won't get started till mid or late June, depending on the severity of the spring. The action will peak for the month of July and slow down in August, although last summer the opposite occurred. A good showing of larger fluke will turn up just past Labor Day and the action will last for about a week, before the flatfish migrate.

Fishing Gardiner's Island in a boat under 17 feet can be tricky. Winds can whip almost instantly and there is almost always a strong afternoon sea breeze that develops. There's a lot of open water out there, and it can get sloppy pretty quick.

So with an eye turned to the weather, get out there and get in on what possibly is the best place for fluke on the Island. The waters surrounding this quiet Island are a beautiful place to drop anchor and have lunch or to cruise around and observe the wildlife and peaceful surroundings.

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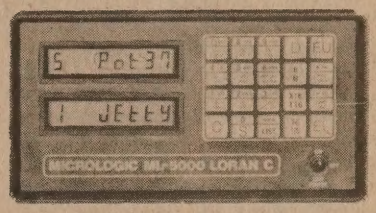

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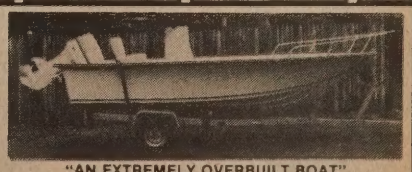

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★ FLUKE WEST ★
NEW YORK BIGHT

by Sal Terranova

Metropolitan anglers are blessed with having some very fine fluking right on their own doorstep.

Summer flounder, better known to us as fluke (**Paraclithys dentatus**) range along the inshore waters of the Northeastern Atlantic Seaboard from Cape Cod to roughly, Virginia, though they may be found either north or south of these areas in limited numbers. Throughout its range, fluke are found both in shallow, estuarine bays, and in the ocean close to shore. In winter, they congregate in deeper, and warmer offshore ocean depths.

In our area, fluke are numerous in the shallow bays of Long Island's South Shore, the Montauk area, and the New York Bight. They are also present, though not as abundant, in Long Island Sound and the deeper Eastern Long Island Bays such as Gardiner's. As far as ocean fishing for fluke is concerned, Montauk has bigger fish, but the New York Bight seems to have the edge over the amount of fish. One would think that there is hardly a place in the Bight where your sand eel baited hook won't attract hungry fluke at one time or another. In fact, the Bight, which is roughly the triangular expanse of water ensconced between northern New Jersey and southwestern Long Island, adjacent to New York Harbor, probably deserves to be named "Fluketown," when one takes into account the vast amount of fluke caught there. Considering the intensity of the angling pressure brought to bear upon the area year after year by the multitudes of fishermen living in the surrounding Metropolitan area, it is absolutely astounding that the Bight continues to provide the quality sport that it does.

Fluke first appear in the Bight in late May, and the Memorial Day weekend usually sees the first major offensive launched against them by the party boat fleet, sailing from Sheepshead Bay and northern Jersey ports. The run is pretty well established by the second week in June, and fluke remain the sinker bouncer's prime target throughout the dog days of mid-summer until the Labor Day weekend. As the hazy sunshine and languid breezes of summer gradually give way to the crisp mornings and brisk breezes of September, the fluke, joined by their brethren pouring out of the bays, gather off the inlets in preparation for their autumnal migration to the offshore winter grounds.

Fluke provide steady action for

Open boat anglers account for many fine fluke in this area.

bottom fishermen in the Bight throughout the summer, but the best fishing, both in terms of quality and quantity, often occurs at the beginning and end of the run, with the emphasis on the latter. At the onset of the season, many of the fluke that eventually find their way to the western south shore bays pass through the Bight. Among these are good numbers of large fluke, which upon entering the bays will scatter hither and thither, but which at this time (early June) can be found concentrated in certain areas of the Bight, such as Deb's Inlet, a/k/a East Rockaway Inlet. By fishing this bottleneck at this time, you can intercept the larger fish before they enter and disperse throughout the bays.

The situation is reversed at the tail end of the fluke season, late August through September, when large numbers of fish funnel out of the bays and into the ocean, where they voraciously gorge upon sand eels and other unfortunate small fish to fatten up for the fall offshore migration. Many large fluke are caught at this time of the year. This does not mean that fishing during the mid-summer is not good, just that the beginning and end of the run sees some faster action than usual.

Although fluke can be caught by several methods, including trolling, drifting is by far the most popular and effective technique, in the Bight as well as elsewhere. Since the waters where fluke are found throughout the Bight are fairly deep (20 to 50 ft.) one cannot, for the most part, fish with the light spinning and bait casting outfits popular on Long Island's South Shore bays. In the Bight, it will be necessary to use fairly heavy boat rods and matching conventional reels with 20 to 30 lb. test line, in order to handle the six to eight ounce sinkers normally required to fish the depths and currents encountered. Such heavy tackle will no doubt cut down on the sport, but there is no getting around it, with the exception of unusually calm days.

Some anglers use fairly heavy spinning tackle, but owing to the conditions mentioned above, plus the fluke's peculiar (to us, anyway) way of striking a drifting bait, which requires one to "drop-back" line, I urge you to stick to conventional gear. The "dropback" involves the release of several feet of line upon getting a hit from a fluke. This is done in order to give the fish a little time to swallow the bait, and to counteract the pull exerted by your line which is caused by the drifting boat. This pull will, of course, seem unnatural to the fluke, and may cause the fish to become suspicious and spit out the bait. Conventional gear facilitates the "dropback," as one can easily put the reel into free spool and feed some line back to the fish upon getting a hit. Slowly lift the rod to see if the fish is taking the bait, while stopping **more** line from flowing off the spool with your thumb and then easily throw the reel back into gear an instant before setting the hook, all in one smooth motion. This can also be done with spinning tackle, but the mechanics of a spinning reel make this process somewhat more awkward, thus giving the fluke the edge.

Hooking fluke from a drifting boat via the dropback method requires a certain "touch." Don't be frustrated if you miss a lot of hits at first, it may take you awhile to develop the feel. Some otherwise fine fishermen have trouble with the "dropback," even after many trips (yours truly!), while some 10-year-old kid on his first fluke expedition has no problem whatsoever! Be patient, and eventually you should not have much trouble hooking up, even if you still miss a few here and there.

The most popular terminal rig used in the Bight, consists of a long-shanked 3/0 to 6/0 Carlisle or O'Shaughnessy hook on a three foot long leader attached to your main line by means of a dropper loop about three inches above the sinker. The sinker, obviously, is secured to the end of your line via an end loop.

Due to the nature of the baits used and the manner in which they must be presented to the quarry, many fluke fishermen employ hooks that have a small "baitholder" hook attacked to the shank of the main hook, near the eye. Since fluke baits are either long, tapered strips or long, slender fish such as sand eels, they must be hooked up front in order to be presented naturally. The baitholder hook is pushed through the eyes of a sand eel, while the main hook is pushed through the body near the tail of the bait. The bait is now attached securely to the hook and is thus able to be presented to the fluke in a life-like manner. The possibility of the bait sliding down the shank of the hook and bunching up, thus attracting crabs instead of fluke is now **theoretically** eliminated, though it does happen on occasion. The baitholder hook also makes it difficult for short-biting fluke to steal a bait without risking the ultimate penalty.

Although many fluke are caught on plain hooks, I find it is harder to present a bait naturally (especially sand eels or spearing), and to keep it on the hook for any amount of time without it sliding down the shank and bunching up. Therefore, I strongly recommend the baitholder hooks, which I have been using for years with good results.

Some fluke fishermen use rigs which have a combination of spinners, beads, and short lengths of brightly colored plastic tubing strung on the leader above the hook. While there is no doubt that these contraptions may attract fluke to your bait, especially on days when the water is soiled and murky, and bait visibility thus plays an important factor, the negative aspects of these rigs far outweigh the positive. These bead and spinner adorned rigs have a tendency to

(Continued on next page.)

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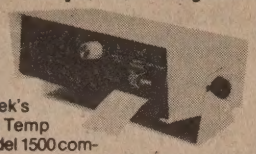

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MERCURY OUTBOARDS

gather half the seaweed in the ocean (at least that's how it seems!), get snagged easier on bottom debris, and further complicate any tangle with another angler's line. They also usually cost more than other rigs. I shy away from these contraptions and recommend that you do also.

The sand eel/squid strip combination is the favorite, and most effective, fluke bait in use in the Bight, especially on small and average size fluke. Squid strips should be about 5 inches long and tapered to a point, so that they resemble a pennant in shape. Spearing can be substituted for the sand eel, and either of the three baits can be fished alone. A strip cut from the belly of a fluke is a very effective and durable bait, especially for bigger fluke. Tailor the size of the fluke belly strips to suit the fish on hand. If smallish fish are predominant, cut the strips to about 5 inches or so; if doormats are what you desire, cut the strips larger.

Be aware that a strip of fluke belly a 15 pound doormat would consider a mere morsel would probably choke a two pound fluke. In other words, you will probably miss a lot of strikes from average size fish when you are going for the long-shot 10 pound doormat. The choice is yours. Please don't keep short fluke with the excuse that you need them to cut up for strip bait, as some so-called "sport fishermen" do. Strips cut from sea robins and dogfish also make good fluke baits. Towards the end of the season, snappers, either fresh dead, or even better, alive, can be absolutely lethal on fluke, especially larger fish, and may also net you a bonus "tiderunner" weakfish.

Lures tipped with a squid strip can work wonders at times, when bounced along the bottom slowly as the boat drifts. Try bucktails; tins, such as Hopkins, and leadheaded/rubber bodied jigs such as Salty Dogs, Tiger Tails, and the Nordic Eel (the Nordic Eel, by the way, is a renowned weakfish killer in the Bight!). You will notice that fluke **tend** to strike lures with a vengeance, and seem to fight harder when hooked on a lure. Start fishing with your basic sand eel/squid strip combination (a/k/a "sandwich bait") and keep the other baits and lures in mind as alternatives. Don't expect other baits or lures to work miracles when nothing is working.

As I mentioned in the beginning, fluke can be found almost anywhere in the Bight. If you are fishing from a party boat, the captain will find them for you, although you should try to familiarize yourself with productive areas for future reference. If you are angling from your own vessel, and your navigational skills leave something to be desired, don't worry. Fluke are **generally** scattered over productive grounds, and it is not **usually** necessary to pinpoint a specific spot, as when blackfishing or codfishing over a wreck. This may sound overly simplistic, but since scores of party boats ply the waters of the Bight in search of fluke, just nestle in wherever the bulk of the fleet is concentrated. If all, or most of the party boats are gathered in one general area, you know that's where the action is. (Hopefully!) If the fleet is scattered all over, that may very well mean that the action is slow. Then it may be better to go off on your own and explore, on the assumption that one boat all by its lonesome may do better than 10 boats concentrated in one areas, as far as a fish-per-angler basis on a slow day is concerned.

In the early part of the season (June), Deb's Inlet (a/k/a East Rockaway Inlet) produces good numbers of medium-large fluke. All along the Rockaway shore line, about a mile off the beach is worth a try. During the summer, the Jersey coast from Sandy Hook down to the Long Branch Pier is good, working in fairly close to the beach, though some areas will be better than others on any given day. Either side of Ambrose Channel can be productive. Sandy Hook Bay, the Tin Can Grounds off of Rockaway, and the flats off Coney Island are always worth a shot. The last spot mentioned has a reputation for harboring some outsized fluke, particularly late in the season. When all else fails, try Norton's Point, for few, but good sized fluke in the hard to fish depths. Rockaway Inlet, the Plum Beach flats, and Great Kills-New Dorp Beach off Staten Island can all be your ace-in-the-hole when the fish are not found elsewhere. If it's doormat fluke your little heart desires, late in the season, try the Shrewsbury Rocks off of Jersey with large strip baits or live snappers, and be prepared to lose a few rigs in the rocks.

When fishing from your own vessel, don't neglect to bring along a long-handled net with a **wide** mouth. Believe me, a doormat fluke is **wide**. Throw back any fluke under 14 inches in length, even if you are fishing in Jersey waters, because the conservation officer can give you a citation when you return to your New York Port, and please don't bother giving him the old "but I caught it at Sandy Hook" routine. If you are following the party boats to find the action, keep in mind that some boats will be jigging for blues and weaks or bottom-fishing for porgies and sea bass in the same general area. The boats that are fluking will be recognized by the long-handled nets that are placed vertically in rod holders. This telltale sign can be discerned from a good distance away on a clear day.

Since many of the same areas that produce fluke in the Bight also harbor blues and weaks, it is a good idea to bring along some jigs and a jigging outfit on your fluke expeditions. If the fluking is slow, this may save the day. Even if the fluking is good, can you think of a better way to top off a fine day's catch of fluke than with a brace of tiderunner weaks? I can't.

East End REPORT

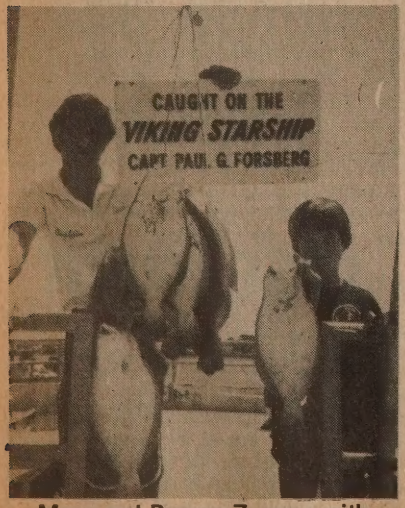
with Stu Miller

Things are really popping both inshore and offshore out east, with the porgies now taking hold off the Point in a big way and fluke catches at the Rips northeast of the Point making a lot of people very happy. Cod and blues are very good and should continue to build further.

MONTAUK

Captain Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** on Thursday fished Rich Chieaflo, Dan Santani and Steve Catalano. They diamond jigged weaks and blues off the Point and finished up with 87 keeper fluke up to 6 lbs. with fish averaging 2-3 lbs. at North and Midway Rips. Saturday's trip for Ives Morrisey and Pete Antonelli yielded 75 keeper fluke to 6 lbs. in the same areas. Sunday's trip for a group of doctors boated 101 fluke to 8 lbs. with a total weight of over 300 lbs. of fluke for theday. Catches were on squid, sand eels and fluke belly.

Aboard Capt. Phil Lewis' charter boat **Adios**, this week it was mostly inshore fishing. On Thursday the English party had over 100 trolled blues. On Friday the trip for Mike Forresta and group umbrellaed and diamond jigged an equally good number of blues off Block Island. The offshore action remained good with the exception of Sunday. Saturday's trip for the Donahue group took ablue shark but lost an estimated 300 lb. mako which grabbed two baits and



Mene and Brynne Zuccaro with a fine catch of fluke made at Montauk aboard the "Viking Starship."

Joe Cutuli landed this mako aboard the Montauk charter boat "Adios." Note the protruding bill of a swordfish which the shark carried as a result of a recent battle.

dove with a resultant breakoff.

From the **Viking Fleet** we hear that the Coxes ledge fishing remains good on bait and on jigs for cod. Saturday's pool was a 33 lb. pollock for Patchogue angler Ray Piper. Cod have been averaging 12 to 14 lbs. and pools are running to the 25 to 30 lb. range. Porgies set themselves up in housekeeping on the weekend off the light house, all mediums and jumbos on worm and clam. The fluking in the rips has been super all week with a few mackerel also being caught. Very few short fluke. The night bluefishing off Block has been terrific said the skipper with all big fish 12 lbs. and up. Fares are bagging up nightly.

Aboard the charter boat **Julie II**, Wednesday saw Benny Morton with 300 porgies to 3 lbs. Thurday's trip for Dom Felieu resulted in a catch of 675 porgies plus some sea bass, flounder and macks. Friday's catch was 162 porgies along with some sea bass, macks, flounder and weaks. On Saturday the Louis Velasquez party hoisted over 600 porgies to 3½ lbs., while the two man charter on Sunday led by Joe Byer decked over 500 porgies to 5.2 lbs. These catches were at Great Eastern and at the Point.

We hear from the charter boat **Montauk** that this week has been a great one for makos. His fares had 8 makos on the for the week with 5 being boated, in the 50-195 lb. range. Three were taken on Thursday alone with action at 40 fathoms in the area of Fritzie's Hole.Quite a few brown sharks showing up and on Friday the boat's first long fin albacjore of the season was taken on a green machine.

A call from Skipper Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Kellyboat** informed us that the blue sharks had moved out to the east. Friday's charter had one mako and one brown shark. Fishing

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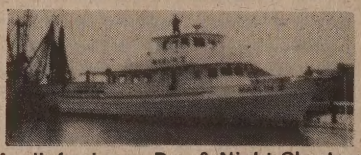

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MONTAUK POINT

Bill Sutorius and friends Mike and Dominick with trophy stripers taken at Montauk on a night charter aboard Captain Bob Rocchetta's "Rainbow."

on the weekend south of Cartwright the customers trolled up 40-45 big blues for a half day trip, fish in the 10 lb. class. This is on 150' of wire as the fish are high up.

The word from **Little Bear and Flying Cloud** is that the porgies have finally agreed to bite and are doing so with great regularity now off the lighthouse and Great Eastern. There are a lot of fish in a big area said Capt. Dusty. The porgies are just super. On Saturday Larry McCall took home 103 big porgies, mostly medium and large. Fares are averaging anywhere from 30-100 a man.

Aboard Capt. bud Dorman's 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** there has been excellent porgy fishing. With the exception of Wednesay fares have counted porgies in numbers between 60 and in the 90s each day. Fish range 3/4 to 3 lbs. Bud requests that his customers come with conventionals spooled with 15 lb. mono for satisfaction with the porgy action. Anchoring in the strong Montauk tides requires this diameter line.

From the charter boat **Joy Sea** we learned that Monday's trip for Les Romaine, Peekskill got him a 153 lb. mako and a few blue shark. Wednesday's trip for Joel Portnoy, Amagansett resulted in a 145 lb. mako hanging from the gin pole. The weekend was slow due to heavy boat traffic, but even so Joe Bisbano of Harrison, NY managed 4 browns and 4 blue shark up to 200 lbs. fishing due east of the Point.

From Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** were told that the charter boat **Nostalgia II** enjoyed very good mixed bag fishing inshore on the weekend at Shagwong and North Rips. Saturday's trip for Vince Dooley and group had 25 macks, 5 blues and 40 keeper fluke to 5 lbs. Sunday's trip for Jack Evans and party had 12 weaks to 10 lbs, 5 blues, 10 macks and 50 fluke to 6 lbs. Gin Beach has been another good fluke spot. Pe r the catch of Jason and Hunten Colby with 90 fluke to 4 lbs. from inner Shagwong. On Sunday

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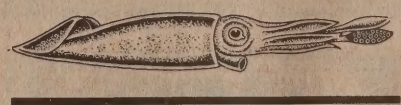

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Jean Pierre of Bordeaux, France made his first shark a memorable one. The 135 lb. mako was taken aboard the charter boat "Montauk" and weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

Jason and Sally Reed along with Patrick deAndrea had 30 fluke to 6 lbs fishing Shagwong and Gin Beach. Charlie Stremmel hoisted 68 keeper fluke fishing on the south side. Good early morning and evening weaks and blues at Shagwong also.

SOUTH FORK

helen at **Noyac Marina** told of nice catches of school weaks off Jessup's on squid strips, and a mixture of blues porgies and an occasional fluke. Best porgies are between buoys 16 and 17 at anchor with heavy chumming. Please note the station is open 7AM weekdays and 6AM weekends.

Out of **Sag Harbor** the **Wilhelric II** which is now featuring Ladies's Days on Tuesdays (½ fare) reported fluking Tuesday and Wednesday was the best so far this season at H orton's and sthe Sound. Tuesday saw Ed Thompson of Riverhead with 13 keepers, 5 of which were between 4-6 lbs. As part of Wednesday's catch roughly 50 fluke were between 4 and 6 lbs. The pool went to Doc Clyne, Noyac with a 6½ lber. Both days totaled approximately 150 keepers. On the porgy side, catches have improved and are consisten with catches averaging 25-50 a man fishing the north side of Plum and Petty's Bight. Sunday's high hook was 83 porgies for George Lane of Jamaica. Fish are from the smallest to the largest. The skipper says don't worry about being left on the dock on the weekends. This is when the crowds are thinnest so come on down.

Over in **Hampton Bays** sharks appear to be the big news offshore according to Lanny at **Molnar's Landing.** Fishing on the Taipan, Dick Meixner, Kip Molnar and Jim Donahue had a 116 lb. mako fishing SE of

Shinnecock Inlet in 180s of water. Father Dan Harris on the boat Pole Pit hoisted a 168 lb. mackerel fishing in 150 feet south of the inlet. Jim Delano on his boat Piece of Mind loaded up on blues to 14 lbs. while sharking. Ed Brecht and Bob Peterson chummed a box of big blues in 100' of water to 13 lbs. Plenty of small blues just outside the inlet on umbrellas. Both fluke and flounder a good item in east and west channels. Bass remains slow with a few fish taken on wire and bucktails. On Monday Morning Stan Lewandoski picked a 14½ lber.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

The big news in this area is the phenomenal bluefish action centered SE of Fire Island Inlet in the general area of the Patchogue Grounds. According to reports, the after dark action being enjoyed by Captree open boats has been "as good as you could ever expect and then some." Daytime fishing, while described as excellent by normal standards, is nonetheless a step or two behind the night fishing.

Sadly, this glut of fish has created a problem as a couple of skippers expressed frustration at the load of fish being left on the boats and dock each morning. Much of this excess catch is going to waste which, while a terrible injustice, is also an em-

Pat Bambino, Capt. Greg Beacher, Artie Warren and Anthony Raymond pose with Pat's 503 lb. dusky shark taken S.E. of Block Island aboard the charter boat "Dawn."

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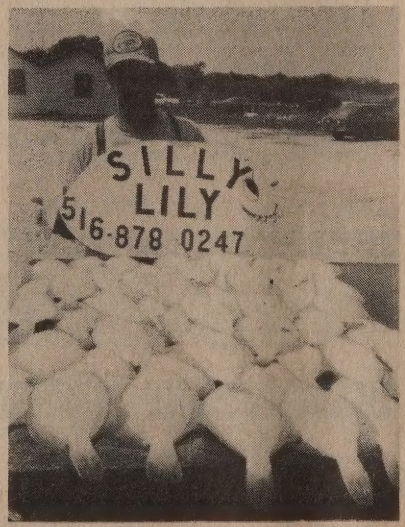
Jim Ciccone, left, and Harold Smith, right, pose with Jim's 375 lb. mako taken in 170' of water S.E. of Shinnecock. Jim whipped the big shark standing up with a 50 lb. outfit on his 19½' Aquasport. Subscriber photo.

barassment to the recreational fishing community. If you're fortunate enought to sample some of this wild fishing, make it a point to take only what you can use and release unwanted fish whenever possible. If you kill them, it's your responsibility to see they are put to good use. Mates and captains should do their part as well, to encourage fares to make prudent use of their catch.



John Iuliano with a fine catch of June flounder made south of buoy 34. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Finally, a marked improvement in the fluke fishing in Moriches but flounder continue to hang in there. Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** called the fluking much improved this past week who with the best of the action being found east of buoy 41. Ninety percent of the fish are keepers and they are being taken on both tides with sandeels and squid the preferred bait. On Sunday, Jerry Baumeister and his son John returned with 18 keepers to 3 pounds and 5 blues. It was left to Dan Kaloski to put the first real doormat on the scale. He took a 9.15 pound fluke near buoy 38 on Tuesday. Plenty of flounder remain at buoy 36 and south of 34 but action is good only 3 hours before and after high tide.

From **Skidmore's Fishing Station**, Hank said that flounder fishing has been good on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb between buoys 36 and 39. Wallace Turner and his son Pete had 70 on bloodworms at buoy 39 over the weekend. Fluking is much improved with the best fishing being

found south of and between buoys 39 & 41. Most of the fish being caught are keepers and 12-20 fish per boat has been about average.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello said that crabs remain the main attraction at Blue Point and Patchogue Docks. Small blues continue to entertain boatmen near the Smith Point Bridge and in East and Range Channels. Fluke are also just east of the Smith Point Bridge. Plenty of small weaks in the east bay on small, single-hooked Bridgeport Diamond Jigs with a nightcrawler, sandworm or strip of squid.

Pretty good showing of fluke this week from mid-Bay to Ocean Beach, according to Vinny at **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville**. Small blues remain abundant throughout the bay and lots of crabs are around locally. On Sunday, Ron Trotta and his son, Ron, Jr. returned with a nice mess of fluke taken near buoy 29.

From **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** came word of lots of small blues being taken on jigs and umbrella rigs in the inlet and plenty of big blues located SE of the inlet in 90-100' of water. Fish range from 6 to 12 pounds and are being trolled and jigged in the daytime and chummed at night. Small weaks along with a mixture of fluke in the bay between Heckscher and Ocean Beach. Some offshore action around the tower and in the Compass Rose along the 40 fathom curve but beyond that the offshore scene was relatively quiet.

A good showing of fluke near the lighthouse this past week and plenty of small blues continue to keep trollers and jiggers busy at the inlet according to Mike Cioffi of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**. In 80-90' of water off of Patchogue there are big blues being taken by jiggers and trollers in the daytime and by chummers at night.

Carl Miller at **Smokey's Tackle**

A party headed by Gene Harchuck returned from a charter aboard the Hampton Bays boat "Sea Mist" with this 398 lb. mako.

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Len Briggs caught this 358 lb. mako in 180' of water south of Moriches Inlet aboard the charter boat, "Tender Loving Care." Photo courtesy of L&M Marine in East Moriches.

Shop in **Bay Shore** said that outgoing water at West Channel and Ocean Beach has been producing some decent catches of fluke (8-12 keepers per boat) on sandeels and squid. Best action at the inlet has been on the flood tide. Some 1-3 pound weaks are being taken on squid and sandworms just east of East Islip Marina and small to medium porgies provided a good shot of action for a couple of sinker bouncers in the West Channel area. Plenty of bluefish in the inlet being trolled and jigged. On Saturday, Mike Paravino and crew had 50; blues. Same day, several boatmen reported seeing a striper in the 40 pound class taken by one boatman trolling blues on umbrellas. Some big weaks in the 7-12 pound range discovered in the Oak Beach Cove and being taken on sandworms. All the big blues you want in 80-100' of water east of the inlet. Some marlin sighted in the vicinity of the Compass Rose in recent days but none boated. Of the sharking, one boat landed a 175 pound dusky in 60' of water on Wednesday. Another dropped a 400 pound-plus mako in 140', 145 degrees out of the inlet on Saturday. Canyon action dropped off as water temperature this past week fell off at least 8 degrees.

Over at **Captree** the big news this weekend was the spectacular run of bluefish which provided open boat anglers with wild fishing throughout the weekend. Capt. Speedy Hubert said that catches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday numbered in the thousands rather than the hundreds with most of the fish falling into the 6-12 pound range. Friday night's hi-hook was regular "Big Bob" who left the boat ladened down with 75 choppers. Speedy added that the fishing cannot get any better after dark but even the day fishing was labelled as excellent. All the fishing this past week was done on the Patchogue grounds made famous several years back by a season long run of fish. Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** called the

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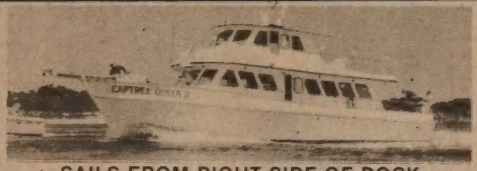

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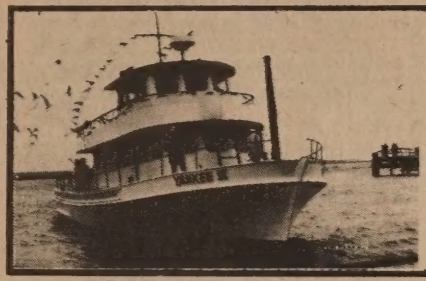

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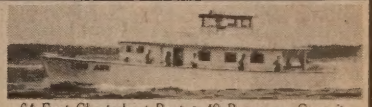

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fluking slow to fair most days but he was far more enthused about the night bluefish action being found on the Patchogue grounds. He described it as better than anything he has seen and said that the last five nights (Wednesday thru Sunday) were just fantastic. Pool fish each night was in the 10-14 pound class though most fish fall into the 6-10 pound range. The skipper urged bluefish fans to get in on this hot action while it is available because there is no telling how long it will last.

Over at the **Captree Bait Station**, Bobby Sprenger reported that the bluefish boats had been doing an incredible job at night and a bang up job in the daytime. He said that the Saturday AM boats got a pretty good shot at the fluke and added that there was also a pretty good showing of fluke at the piers Saturday AM. He weighed one 5 pounder and several 2-3 pounders for p'er anglers.

From the open boat **Captain Dan**, mates Tim Shiebler and Sheila Sullivan spoke of a good pick of fluke through the weekend between the inlet and the lighthouse with the boat concentrating its efforts along the edges of the inlet bars. Killies and squid have been accounting for some decent size fish with less than 20 percent of the fish being taken being shorts this past week.

Capt. Tom Burke of the charter boat **Lady Ann** labelled the fluking as fair in Dickerson and Snake Hill Channels and told of a good shot Saturday and Sunday mornings in East Channel though this fishing didn't last for long. He figured the keeper ratio this week at 85% including quite a few fish in the 3 pound range. The skipper was enthused about the excellent bluefishing being found in the Patchogue area once again and reminded that he still has some choice dates available.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty 3** was another to herald the super bluefishing at Patchogue. George said that since last Monday fares have been dragging 1-3 bags of choppers off the boat each night with nearly all falling into the 5-12 pound range. Fluking was good this past week to the east and specifically in the morning. Most fares managed 5-7 keepers in the 1½-3 pound range. Some blues and weaks have been mixed with the fluke between Heckscher and Range Channel.

Four-year-old Christopher Csajko will never forget his first fishing trip. The youngster caught this trio of two brown and one rainbow trout during an outing on the Connetquot River. Subscriber photo.

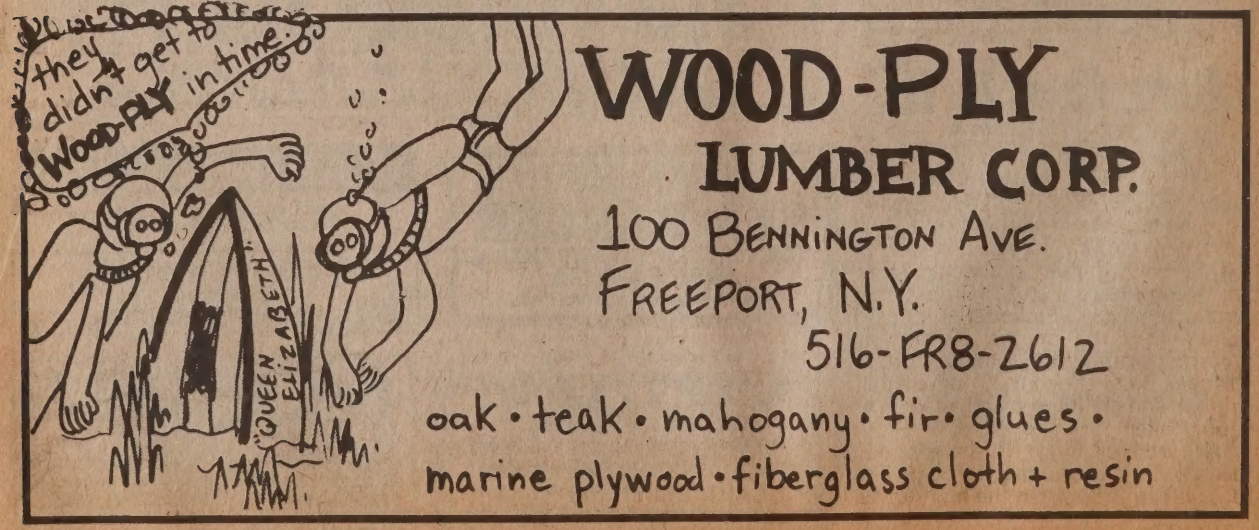
Capt. Ed Laske of the charter boat **Dixie** reported a fair day of fluking for a group of Massapequa Boy Scouts on Saturday. He worked West Channel and Ocean Beach and reported several fish in the 3-5 pound range. Fishing the Patchogue grounds on Sunday with the Tony Burke party, action was described as a slaughter with fish being taken on both diamond jigs and bait. Ed reminded that he has a few choice dates open in August and September.

Fred Austin of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** said that there are some big weaks being taken down at the inlet while back in the bay at Ocean Beach and Heckscher there are small weaks in the 1-3 pound class. Best bet for fluke on the weekend seems to have been the north end of Snake Hill Channel where catches of a dozen keepers weren't out of the ordinary. Great bluefishing in 90' of water south and east of the inlet with the average fish between 8 and 10 pounds. Still plenty of small blues in the inlet proper on jigs and umbrella rigs. Offshore fishing seemed to have quieted down in recent days.

The **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** spoke of pretty good fluking on Thursday and Friday in the State Channel but added that fishing slowed over the weekend due to week and boat traffic. Miguel Gaudalop won Thursday's pool with a 4 pound fluke.

Ed Donnelly dropped us a line to report a 12 pound weak which he took last week at the mouth of the Fire Island Inlet on a diamond jig and tube combo. He was fishing aboard his own boat, "The Rusty Hook" and weighed the fish at Suffolk Marine Bait and Tackle.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike spoke of a decent showing of fluke in the West Channel between Copiague and Lindenhurst. He weighed a 6 pounder over the weekend from this area and added that some small weaks and blues are mixed with the fluke. Lots of 1-4 pound blues at the inlet on umbrella rigs with big choppers in 80-90' of water south of Point 'O Woods and Ocean Beach. Mike looked over a catch of 20 big blue claws made Saturday night by Jack Brietenbucher who jacked the crabs in the Lindenhurst area.



Capt. Len of the charter boat **Fishfinder** reported a load of nice blues in 70' of water south of the inlet for Brian and Mario Sabbri. On Sunday at the Patchogue grounds the boat returned ladened down with big blues taken on diamond jigs.

Ralph Angelillo of **z-Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** told of Squaw Island Fishing Club member Ralph Lenno who took 2nd place in the Mako Marin Shark Tourney with a 131 pound mako aboard his Sailfish. He knew of a few other makos taken in 130' of water and also knew that Bill Miller aboard the Gannet had a couple of bluefins between 130 and 150' of water. He looked over a catch of 19 big blues from 12 to 16 pounds taken on drifted bunker chunks near the NA buoy Thursday night and also saw a mess of small blues that were trolled outside of the inlet on umbrella rigs on Saturday. Ralph said that fluking improved over last week with one 21 fish catch coming from Snake Hill Channel.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

While decent catches of fluke and shark continue to be had with a dip here and there, the strongest and best fishing news in the area is the fabulous bluefishing that is being done anywhere from 30' of water on out with the fish getting progressively bigger the deeper you go. Party boats are loading up on fish up to 18 lbs.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From **Lon Wanser's Tackle**, Lon advised that his customers have been coming back with good fluke catches this week from along the Massapequa shoreline at Shoreville which is just east of Florence Beach. A Mr. Marino of Massapequa showed Lon his 31 fluke to 5½ lbs. which he caught Friday drifting from Florence Beach to Ft. Neck Point. Killies/spearing combos have been working best. Lon said the fish are spread around the bay in such regular producing spots as Haunts and Goose Creeks are producing nicely. Flounder still being taken from the depths at the 3rd Wantagh and the Meadowbrook Bridge. Bluefish from 30' on out for trollers and chummers and a few bccs being taken here and there.

Aboard the **Chinco III**, there's been decent fluking Monday through Friday with high hooks in the high teens,

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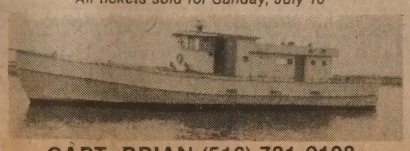

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fish averaging 8 to 12 keepers a man. Both tides are working with killies, sand eels and spearing. Things slowed Saturday and Sunday with extreme low tides and a lot of boat traffic in the back bays and channels. Five and three quarters lbs was the largest fluke of the week.

From **Pop's Fishing Station** we learn of continued good fluke catches coming from sthe west side of the Wantagh bridge from Four Corners to the 2nd bridge. Incoming has been best on killie-squid combos with roughly a 50 per cent keeper ratio. Many mixed bags coming in in rental skiifs of fluke, weaks, black, flounder, sea bass and a few bccs. Katy and Jack Messina and kids accounted for 10 fluke from 2-3 lbs. Scotch warts managed to put one fish in his cooler this week.

Captain Frank Signorelli of the charter boat **3 Sea Sons** which sails out of Jones Inlet advised that sharks and blues are super with more fish moving into the area all the time. Wednesday's trip for attorney Leon Schekter and son Hank from Palisades, NJ took a 100 lb. mako, some brown shark and a load of 12-15 lb. bluefish. Don't forget the boats split charters which they run one day of the week. There are still a couple of choice dates available, said Frank.

From Steve at **Merrick Tackle in Bellmore** we hear of the 18 keeper fluke taken by Don Lander fishing the state channel at MB cut on Wednesday on killie squid combos. Don also caught a spiny puffer which we believe to be poisonous. Don, if you're reading this, don't eat the fish.

Over in Merrick we hear from **Nick's Fishing Station** of the 127 lb. hammerhead shark caught by Robert Schumann of Roslyn on his boat Tranquilizer on Saturday. This was 17 miles south of Jones Inlet. Fluking was great Friday and Saturday at Haunts Creek and off the Golf Course in Merrick though the flatfish bombed out Sunday. Bass sharpie Dennis Newman added a 34 lb. striper to his life's catch in mid week taken on a live bunker in Haunts Creek. Lots of 2 lb. class blues being trolled around the R2.

Swinging over to the boats from **Freeport** we hear from the **Miss Freeport II** regarding the excellent night bluefishing he's been having from Cholera to the Sisters, just one hour from the inlet. The boat has been coming back early on these trips since the catches have been so heavy, with fish running to 12 lbs. on bait and chum. The daytime fluking has been off this week due to exceptionally low tides and conditions in the bay, though Sunday saw an improvement in the fluking.

"We've been having excellent day and night bluefishing all week long through Sunday" was he word from the **capt. Al**. A real slaughter. A good fisherman can fill three burlap bags with ease. Action is from the Farms to Cholera with fish mostly 4-6 lbs. Nights at Cholera are producing fish

A load of big blues taken by Augie, Bob, Neil and Paul during a trip aboard the Freeport charter boat "Nan-Sea."

to 17 lbs. and the night fishing trips are truly excellent. Al said a lot of the best night fishing breaks loose late into the night with patience being the byword, then when it does explode, its non stop.

From Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** we hear that both day and night bluefishing trips are an out and out leap job fishing from the Three Sisters to the Mud Hole to Farms. It's jigging daytime, bait and chum at night and fish are running anywhere from 3-10 lbs. Consistency is the name of the game now with the typical catch being Friday's for ralph Alber with 50 blues, 5-9 lbs.

From the **Blue Fin Fleet**, we hear from skipper Sy Carlin of the excellent bluefishing both boats had this week, fish to 10 lbs. but most fish running 3-6 lbs. Fishing was along the beaches and offshore to the southwest anywhere from 8-25 miles. Pool fish for the week were taken by Joe Alston, Springfield Gardens of Hanover Bank, Andy Rodriguez and Mr. Welch of Armored Car Co. and Dave Leverich , Chase ,Manhattan Bank. High hooks of the week were Zach Reed, Dave Lerverich and Richie Silver. Some good fluking was had along the beaches Monday with fish to 4½ lbs. Bluefish are being diamond jigged and are hitting the jigs with or without tails.

From the charter boat **Nan Sea** we learned of Sunday's trip for Chris Mayer of Lynbrook. Sharking was slow but everyone filled up on 5-12 lb. blues which were trolled on top. East-southeast of Jones in 120' of water. The skipper saw one marlin and lots of whales. Lots of life out there, he advised.

Captain Mike Miller of the charter boat **Apus** sailed an overnighter to the canyon Wednesday and had a bigeye tuna of 165 lbs. on a blue and white Striker Softy. A white marlin was also taken on a green and white Striker Softy. During the night a couple of makos were landed, though Mike says the water temp is still low at the canyon. Sharking in general is good with the boat still averaging one mako

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per trip. Super bluefishing from Cholera to Three Sisters with fish in the 5-8 lb. range on diamond jigs or on trolled single tubes or umbrellas. Mike reports seeing a lot of marlin in the compass rose area, though none taken. A bluefin tuna in the 30 lb. class was trolled up in 130' of water and Mike also reports lots of life offshore such as bait, turtles and whales.

From Capt. Pat of the **Lady J III** we hear of a 3½ lb. pool fluke taken on Monday's trip for Flack and Kurtz, NYC. Friday night's trip for Brooklyn Union Gas had dynamite bluefishing at the Farms on bait and chum. Saturday's trip for Mark Dougherty and group from Mt. Vernon picked away at the fluke and had a 3 lb. pool winner. Sunday's trip for A&S picked fluke off the beach at Rockaway and the Tin Can on spearing and squid.

Captain Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** told of some very good fluking this week on both boats. The full day boat had high hooks in the 20s. Tuesday Bob Sansk had 21 keepers to 4½ lbs. Thursday Donnie Baglivi had 20 keepers. Pool fish of the week was 5 lber. and there were plenty of 3 to 4 lbs. The half day boat had very good fluking in the AM tides with high hooks in the teens and a 5¼ lber. being the largest of the week. The 4:30PM flounder trips have been yielding super catches of flatties to 3½ lbs. with high hooks in the 30s. Catches are averaging 12-20 a man.

Freeport Boatmens Association informed us that the **Super Spray II's** new night schedule of bluefishing

Ed Puzio displays flatties of 2 and 2½ lbs. taken in Reynold's Channel. Photo courtesy of Ed's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

6PM to midnight has really taken off, with plenty of blues being taken from Three Sisters to the Farms. The boats trolling bluefish are loading up locally between the inlet and Three Sisters for fish 3-12 lbs. All the boats that are fluking during the day are finding it picky but they are catching nonetheless with lots of 3-4 lbers mixed in.

A call from the **Capt. Gary** told of Friday's trip for south shore Country Day School where fluke were picked away at in the inlet and Long Creek. Saturday's fluking for Dairylea Co. was fair. Scott Miller had a 2½ lb. pool fish and Joe Connery was high hook with 8 keepers. Sunday's trip for McFinley's Pub, Huntington, also had fair fluking. Walt McCaffery had a 4 lb. pool fish and Joe Smith was high hook with 9 keepers.

Jan at **Thompson's Deli and Fishing Supplies in Baldwin Harbor** told of Bruce Pierson and crew and their 65 lb. mako and 300 lbs. of blues from 140' of water South of Jones.

In nearby **Pt. Lookout** we learn that the charter boat **Marie III** on Wednesday night had blues averaging up to 15 a man for American Airlines. Cholera was the spot and fish ran 10 to 15 lbs. on butters and bunker. Friday night's group picked away at blues to 14 lbs. in poor fishing conditions. Sunday's trip worked in 130' of water south of Jones taking blue and brown shark to 75 lbs. Two white marlin rose in the slick but couldn't be baited.

From Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** comes word that Wednesday's AM trip saw Phyllis O'Donnel of the Lady Reelers with a 7½ lb. fluke. Wednesday was the best fluking day of the week and in the PM Sid Solsmen ended up with 14 keepers. Thursday's AM trip had Pete Conway with a 4 lb. pool fish. Thursday's PM trip had Pat Ladoner with 3, 4 lbers. plus the pool. On Friday's AM trip, Joe Blair, Garden City got his first fluke ever, a 3½ lb. pool winner. Friday's PM trip had Phyllis Rappaport with a 3 lb. pool fish. Saturday's catch was not too good as the water was brown from an algae bloom, but nonetheless Art Hunstein bagged a 2¾ lb. pool winner on the Am trip. Saturday's PM trip saw George Puckhaber with a 3 lb. fluke. Sunday bounced back with high hook being 8 keepers. Fran Staiano bagged a 3¾ lb. pool fish. The night bluefishing has been super and fares are bagging up almost every night with choppers to 18 lbs. Friday night, regular Sue Reese had the pool winner with a 14 lb blue while Saturday night Bob Zatorsky got the best of 38 big blues. Fishing has been at Three Sisters and Cholera. The fluke trips have been at Long Scow and Sea Dog Creeks and Jones Inlet.

On the half day **Capt. Bill** the skipper reported fair to good fluking Monday through Friday with the weekend taking a nosedive due to the extremely heavy boat traffic and low tides along with the brown algae in the bay. Bill fished the back creeks

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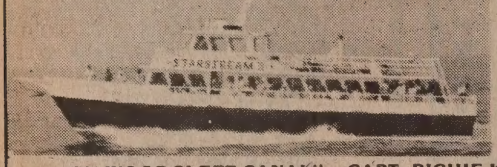

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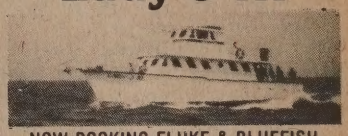

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during the week and found nice sized fish. The boats night bluefishing trips have been great. Pat Sweeney of Garden City had a 15 lb. pool fish Friday night plus 12 other blues. Saturday night Pete K, Hicksville took the pool with a 16.2 lb. blue. All the fish were gaffers and action was at Cholera.

From **Ed's Fishing Station** we hear the fluking was fair through the weekend. Thursday, Phyllis O'donnel of Massapequa had a 4.7 lb. fluke, 26 inches long taken near Swift Creek on spearing. On Friday, Ed Fitschen and Jim McNally had a 5½ lb. fluke on live killies in the Sea Dog. Fair fluking in the flats and in Reynolds from buoys 16 to 18 and east of the Meadowbrook Bridge. Some good flounder catches at the CG Cove and Swift Creek on worms. Smaller blackfish at the Meadowbrook bridge and Rota wreck. Howie Frankel loaded up on small blues 2 miles south of the JI buoy on umbrellas.

From **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** Charlie advises that the best fluking he's heard of this week was in Reynolds channel and the golf course off Lido to the tune of 8-14 keepers per boat, Thursday through Saturday on squid and spearing. Blue claw crabs hot and heavy in the East Rockaway and Island Park creeks. Flounder catches continue with angler having to locate their deep hole, chum heavily and stay put.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina** we learn that the fluking has been good from the Atlantic Beach CG Station to Riis Park on the ocean side. The majority are keepers on killies and killie-squid combos. John Mancusi and Ralph Pansoni hoisted 28 keepers at the CG area on Saturday. Blues have been excellent from 30' on out off Rockaway with umbrellas best. The Tin Can has produced blues and a few weaks and bass mixed in. A few cows in the same area at dawn and dusk on whole live bunker. Jerry Resnick took a 14 lb. blue and a 4 lb. bass Saturday at Debs on live bunker with the bass taking a trolled white bucktail. On Sunday, 16-year-old John Crauley trolled bass, 10, 9 and 8 lbs. on white bucktails in the same area.

Further west in **Atlantic Beach** Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called the bluefishng excellent from the Inlet to Farms for chummers, jiggers and trollers. Weakfish have been picky and no real body of weaks has come in as of Sunday. Ronnie's charters have been taking 1 or 2 bass each day in the 5-12 lb. range. There was a brief bass blitz at the Can Tuesday through Saturday of 15-40 lbers. with fish hitting bucktails and parachutes. Several big bass were hoisted.

Blacks have slowed reported **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** but there are still a few to be had. Good fluke catches were made at the Island Park railroad trestle, cement block area and Debs Inlet to buoy 9, off Riis Park and between the channels at Sandy

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Hook. Most of these fish were 2-4 lbers. Small blues from Debs to buoy 4 on umbrellas. Small blues at the Tin Can and some large weaks underneath them on umbrellas. Large blues fromk Cholera to Farms in the weekend's Atlantic Bridge Rod and Gun Club Tournament, Jesse York on his boat comass rose boated a 152 lb. hammerhead at the Texas Tower, while George Wetherall had a 97 lb. mako, 50 miles due south, 160 degrees out of the inlet.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From **Skippy's Tackle in East Rockaway** Skip advises that decent fluking has been had this week off Riis Park and Rockaway. Bluefish are all over the place it seems. Ted Brinlow had a 35 lb. bass at Reynolds Channel area on a live bunker. Flounder are slowing but are still to be had while bccs have only been fair this week. Good snapper activity in Bay park and good showing of weaks in the Peconics this week.

In **Jamaica Bay J-Bay Boat Rentals** reported nice fluke activyt in Silver Hole on spearing-squid or killie squid combos. About one third are keepers. Porgies excellent in numbers, but small in size on worms. Some bccs along the JFK shorelines and cocktail blues all over the joint on small Hopkins or Kastmasters.

At **Sheepshead Bay** the **Zephyr** told of very good fluking Saturday and Sunday, with Sunday the better day of the two off the Jersey Coast. Fares had anywhere from 10-20 keepers a man and a 5½ lber was Sunday's pool winner.

From **Stella Maris Tackle** we hear that all the bluefish boats are bringing back loads ofblues day and night. Good fluking has been had in the bay off Canarie and Gerritsen Beach.

We hear from **Pastime II** of fair to good fluking with Sunday a large improvement with larger fish at Riis Park and Tin Can Grounds. Sunday high hook was Warren Parisi of Bklyn with 14 keepers to 6 lbs. and a 7¼ lb. pool winner. Best bait has been belly and spearing. Night bluefishing has been excellent with the exception of Friday night and its bad sea conditions. Weaks and bass are finally making a showing and should build. The boat will also in addition to its day trips, be sailing Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 6Pm for weaks, blues and bass. See add for details.

Captain Walt Wiegand of the **Flamingo III** reports he's been hav ing consistently good bluefishing and it's definitely a banner year for blues. His boat has been working various spots such as the channels, Farms and off Asbury Park on Sunday. Walt says there are fish all along the Jersey Coast, mostly 3-8 lber. depending on the schools encountered. Some fish are running 18-21 lbs. Skipper

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	—	12:05	12:05	12:45	12:05	12:50	12:50	1:30	2:50	3:40	2:45	3:20	11:50	—	7/14
FRI.	12:15	1:00	1:00	1:40	1:00	1:40	1:50	2:30	4:00	4:45	3:45	4:15	12:10	12:45	7/15
SAT.	1:10	1:55	2:00	2:45	1:55	2:35	2:50	3:30	5:15	5:55	4:45	5:15	1:10	1:40	7/16
SUN.	2:10	2:50	3:00	3:45	2:50	3:30	4:00	4:35	6:25	7:00	5:45	6:15	2:05	2:40	7/17
MON.	3:05	3:45	4:05	4:45	3:45	4:25	5:05	5:35	7:35	8:00	6:50	7:15	3:05	3:40	7/18
TUES.	4:05	4:40	5:05	5:40	4:45	5:25	6:05	6:30	8:35	8:55	7:50	8:15	4:00	4:35	7/19
WED.	5:05	5:40	6:05	6:35	5:50	6:20	7:05	7:20	9:30	9:50	8:50	9:05	5:00	5:25	7/20
THURS.	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:20	6:45	7:10	7:55	8:05	10:20	10:40	9:40	9:55	5:50	6:15	7/21

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 7/14	5:36	8:35
FRI. 7/15	5:37	8:34
SAT. 7/16	5:38	8:34
SUN. 7/17	5:39	8:33
MON. 7/18	5:39	8:32
TUE. 7/19	5:40	8:32
WED. 7/20	5:41	8:31

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 7/14	10:24AM	11:42PM
FRI. 7/15	11:36AM	—
SAT. 7/16	12:45PM	12:10AM
SUN. 7/17	1:52PM	12:37AM
MON. 7/18	2:58PM	1:05AM
TUE. 7/19	4:02PM	1:34AM
WED. 7/20	5:05PM	2:07AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
7/10	7/17	7/24	7/3

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	9:35	3:25	10:05	3:50
Fri.	10:30	4:20	11:00	4:45
Sat.	11:20	5:10	11:50	5:35
Sun.	—	6:05	12:15	6:25
Mon.	12:40	6:45	12:55	7:10
Tues.	1:25	7:30	1:40	7:55
Wed.	2:10	8:15	2:25	8:40
Thurs.	2:55	9:00	3:10	9:25

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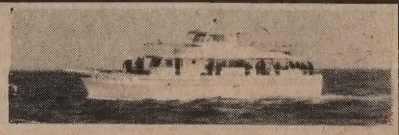

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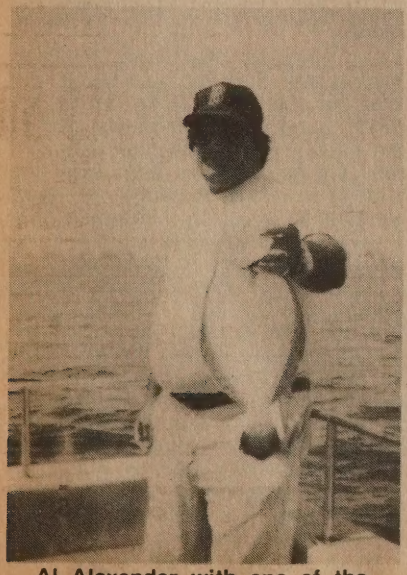
advised the fish apparently settled in and they are taking diamond jigs on all daytime jigs so come on down and load up.

The only thing really new said Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** in **Staten Island** is that there are now more weaks being taken insiede Great Kills harbor/buoy 4 Annandale in the 7-10 lb. range on live bunker or drifted sand worms or trolled single tubes or bucktails. Try the fluking along the shoreline at South Beach and Berger Ave. Storm sewers and Great Kills Park. Small blues are blitzing frequently hitting umbrellas and small tins off the beach at Great Kills park and the barge off Great Kills Harbor. Try Stapleton Piers in Great Kills Harbor for sand porgies. They are also bccs to be had in Great Kills Harb Harbor.

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Garrell

The first substantial showing of weakfish in the Sound along with good numbers of bass from Pt. Jeff, west to Harts Island are among the highlights contained in this weeks report. Blues seem to be ready to settle down in several parts of the sound and provided fast action for diamond jiggers and trollers on the weekend. Porgies appear to be the mainstay of most sinker bouncers but a fine run of fluke from Crane's Neck to Horton's Pt. has raised the eyebrows of many anglers in this area.



Al Alexander with one of the many fluke taken on a recent trip aboard the City Island open boat, "Ebb Tide III."

WESTERN SOUND

From **John's Gun and Tackle** in **New Rochelle** Bruno Sett spoke of lots of fluke in the Matinecock and Bayville area including a 7 pounder taken over the weekend. Small blues spread from Hempstead Harbor to Bayville and are being taken by casters, trollers and jiggers. Sinker bouncers found a mixture of sea bass, porgies and flounder in the area while quite a few bass were taken this past week on sandworms and chunk bait around Hart's Island and Ft. Slocum.

In the **City Island** area, Jack DiCuffa of **Jack's Bait and Tackle** spoke of small blues being trolled and jigged at Execution Rock as well as plenty of 2-4 pounders in Little Neck Bay. Quite a few school bass up to 10 and 12 pounds for pluggers and worm drifters around Harts Island and C.B.S. Tower. Young Shari Moure landed a 12 pound striper at Hart's Island on a bunker chunk on Saturday. Still a few blackfish around and some porgies being taken over at Gangway Rock.

The open boat **Ebb Tide III** skippered by Capt. Joe Ferrara spoke of a good catch of blues taken in the Port Jeff area on diamond jigs on Sunday. Jack relayed word also that the **North Star** did a good job on the porgies over the weekend fishing in the Smithtown area.

The **Glen Cove** open boat **Lady Lil II** has been doing a good job on the bluefish between Bayville and Smithtown. These fish are in the 2-5 pound class and are being taken on 2 ounce diamond jigs. The boat is now sailing daily for bluefish at 8AM.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Mike Deckman of **Four Winds Tackle** in **Huntington** spoke of plenty of blues in the Smithtown Bay area being taken on jigs but he also emphasized the first good showing of weakfish averaging 8 pounds taken on Sunday off of the Nissequogue River. Occasional fluke and some blackfish being taken at Eaton's Neck with Target Rock also producing for blackfish fans. Makamah and Sands City have good numbers of decent sized porgies while worm trollers have been taking some decent numers of bass after dark along local shorelines.

The open boat **Ever Ready II** skippered by Capt. Packy Collins reported red hot bluefishing since Thursday in the Smithtown Bay area. Fish ranged anywhere from 2-6 pounds with hi-hook on Sunday between 30 and 40 fish. Also on Sunday, two dozen weakfish, the first good showing of the year, were taken along with the bluefish on two ounce Tri-fin tiger striped jigs. Packy asked

Some of the big blackfish taken by members of Engine Comp. 72 on the City Island open boat "Apache."

us to remind customers that there will be no day trip on Friday, July 15th but the night trip will sail as scheduled.

Good bass fishing all week throughout the area according to Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** in **Huntington**. Fish are being taken after dark by worm trollers and pluggers. Plenty of 2-5 pound blues throughout the Smithtown Bay areas and porgies are around in good numbers off of Callahan's and Makamah Beaches. Of the bass, Gary Osso weighed a 25 pounder Monday AM that he took on a worm the night before.

Pop over at **Sutler Bait and Tackle** in **Port Jeff** said that bluefishing in the Sound between buoys 9 & 11 has been very consistent for jiggers and trollers. He also weighed in two 8½ pound weaks taken from the area over the weekend. Porgy fishing off of Old Field Point has been fantastic for fish in the 1 pound class. Some go as large as 3 pounds. Pop also noted that a good run of fluke is developing in the Mt. Sinai area.

Excellent porgy fishing at Old Field Point with some catches approaching the 300 fish mark according to Tim of **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jeff**. Most of the fish average a pound but some are much larger. Both worms and clams have been taking fish. Very good fluking off of Old Field and the Pink House with sandeel or spearing and squid combos working. Plenty of 2-4 pound blues throughout the area although buoy 11 has been getting the heaviest play and a lot of flounder still inside the harbor with some nice sized fish mixed in.

Gary Hall called to report that he has been working the shoreline between Port Jeff and Miller Place from his boat casting Rebels and droppers two nights this week. He finished with 6 bass to 6 pounds one night and 8 bass to 10 pounds the other.

Kenny Freeman of the **Anglers Den** in **Selden** hailed his annual weakfish tourney a tremendous success. Seven hundred contestants made it the largest participating affair on the

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Island. Even the fish decided to cooperate although they did make it just under the wire. Ken and his crew logged 1500 total entries, this despite a total blowout on Saturday night. Four hundred participants attended the Sunday night clam bake/awards ceremony. First place was won by Bruce Yudelson with a 12.4 pound weak. The fish earned Bruce $750. cash, a free mount and a Humminbird recorder. Jim Piacinti nailed down second place with an 11.9 pounder that earned him $350. Robert Miccio's 11.2 pounder was worth $200. for third place while a Humminbird flasher went to Jim Jackson for his 11 pounder. Kevin Miccio's 8.12 pounder won the children's division while Louis Apriale led the surf category with a 10.3 pounder. Dorothy Jirinec led all the ladies with a ten pound weak.

Ralph's Fishing station in **Mount Sinai** reported a good weekend with fluke in the Rocy Point-Sound Beach area. Squid/sandeel combos accounted for plenty of nice fish. Sunday saw Annette Schel click with a 8½ pound Fluke. Also on Sunday, Erren Guintu landed a 13½ pound bluefish on a porgy hook and 10 pound test line. Plenty of porgies located right outside the harbor and lots of 2-4 pound blues being jigged by the Pink House and buoy 9.

NORTH FORK

Out in **New Suffolk**, Phil Loria of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station said that the best porgy action for fish averaging 1 pound with some to 2 has been at Rose's Grove. There are also some fish to be found in South Race. Small weakfish are mixed with the porgies at the former location as well as a few blackfish. Both North and South race loaded with 1-3 pound blues which can be taken by casting or trolling.

Liz over at **Mattituck Fishing Station** said that the best bet in the area has been the fluke which are being found in good numbers east of the inlet. Porgies rate high also and they are being found both east and west of the inlet. A couple of weaks were taken by porgy fishermen over the weekend and plenty of small blues roaming the sound in this area.

Ace Cottral of **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** said that the Southold station has all the blues you want on incoming water during the afternoon or evening hours. They are being caught at Jessups Neck. Porgies are at buoy 16, 14, South Ferry and Mashomack Point. Small weaks are off the Monastary in Noyac Bay and a few fluke are being taken off the Greenlawns, East Marion and the Greenport Breakwater.

At at the Orient Station, there are very good fluke at Petty's Bight and down to the station. Some larger fish being taken at the ruins around Guardiner's Island. Highlight of the

week was Tony Loperfido's 20.4 pound doormat fluke taken at the ruins on Saturday aboard Tony's boat Fishalot. Ace weighed in a number of other large fluke including an 11, a couple of 9's and a few in the 6 pound range. Best bet for porgies is Petty's Bight and flounder are still available at the Cable Crossing at the Point in 40' of water. Blackfish at both Mulford and Orient Points in the rocks.

Art White of **A.P. White Bait Shop** spoke of very good fluking at Guardiners, Truman's Beach and at Petty's Bight. Some excellent weakfish scores made at Truman's Beach by trollers this past week. Some were also taken on jigs. Best bet for porgies is over at Guardiner's and blues seem to be all over the place. Plenty of blackfish at E. Marion and at Orient Point itself on fiddlers and sandworms. Bass fishing in the gut slowed this past week. Both open boats, **The Peconic Star**, and **Brand X** returned with fair catches of porgies over the weekend. George Porter trecked over to New London to give that spot a try but unfortunately it didn't pan out. Best action has been over at Gurardiners.

Surf REPORT with Fred Golofaro

Weakfish made the night for many casters scattered around several parts of the Island this past week. Shagwong, eastern North Shore beaches and Democrat Pt. all had their shining moments for those lucky enough to time their trips right.

Casters who have been plying Long Island Sound beaches and been frustrated by the sight of rolling bass and weaks may find some comfort in the news that over the past several weeks, I have been able to pick away at these hard to catch fish with unweighted Hellcat swimmers. An all silver finish has had the edge but yellow has also accounted for some decent action. Hopefully, these fish will drop that fussy mood and become more cooperative but if they don't, give the Hellcats a try. Finding them here on the Island may be a problem, however. I get mine from J&R Sport Center in Oakdale, but I'd call first to make sure they are in stock. To my knowledge, and I've checked around, no other shops on the Island stock these plugs, though your favorite tackle dealer may be able to order them for you. Hope this little tidbit helps put a few fish on the stringers—they've made the difference for me.

Nothing to report from the western South Shore this week though I doubt

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it's due to a total lack of fish.

Beginning with Democrat Point on Fire Island, there has been steady action with small blues as well as a mixture of weaks and bass some nights. Most bass are 6-10 lbs., but there was a 20 lber. taken on worms just east of the jetty over the weekend. Friday night saw some good weakfish scores made off the "bar" at the Point. Bobby Sprenger of **Captree Bait Station** weighed 10.5 lb. tide-runner for one caster Saturday AM. The fish topped a heavy stringer of weaks made the night before at the Point. Another caster reported a load of blues and three weaks taken on tin, to Mike Andreanni of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle.**

A word of caution might be in order for those planning on fishing the bar at Democrat. Word has it htat there was a breakthrough between Friday PM and Saturday morning making passage risky until it fills back in.

Mike Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle** in **East Islip** spent some time on the beach at Smith Point near Moriches Inlet on the weekend. He told of action with small blues as well as a few weaks and school bass early Saturday AM. The pocket just west of the jetty was the scene of most of the action.

Out in Montauk, plenty of weaks remained at the Point to keep casters busy most nights. Saturday fishing was way off due to the strong northwest winds but some casters reported doing a big job on Friday night at Shagwong. Fish were also taken in other areas according to Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk.** One caster reportedly did well Saturday afternoon "up front" and wet-suiters took fish in Browns and on Weakfish Rock. An occasional nice bass has been mixed with the weaks including a 25 lber. in Browns and a 30 at Gin Beach.

Up on the North Shore, western Sound beaches seem to be well populated with hard to catch weaks and bass though a few fish are being taken in the Bayville to Huntington area. Blues come and go along Smithtown Bay beaches along with a few weaks and an occasional bass. Beaches to the easat seem to have come alive with weaks taken from Crane's Neck east. Best of this action seems to be east of Wading River where Stan Henchal of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported scores of 14 weaks for Steve Bungi and 8 weaks for his brother Dave. The fish were all taken during Saturday night's blow. Ronnie Dietrich weighed in one tide-runner of 13½ lbs. from the same area. Bass from 6-15 lbs. are being taken along with the weaks. Rebels and RedFin dropper combos are producing all of the action.

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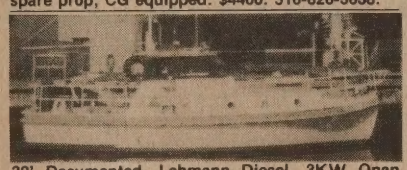

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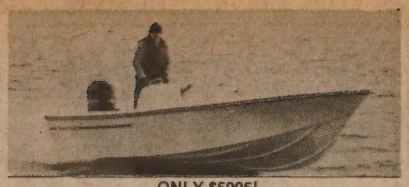

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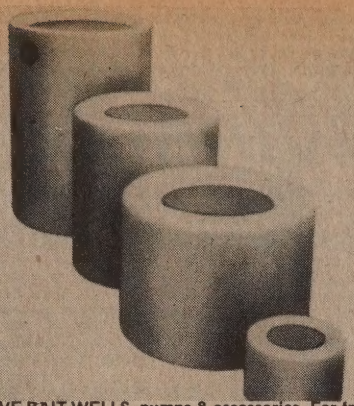

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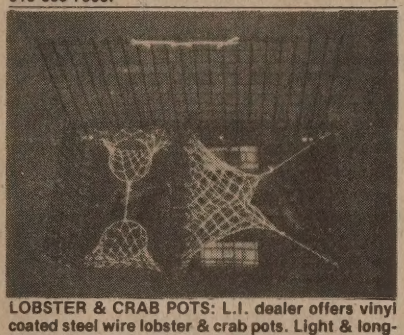

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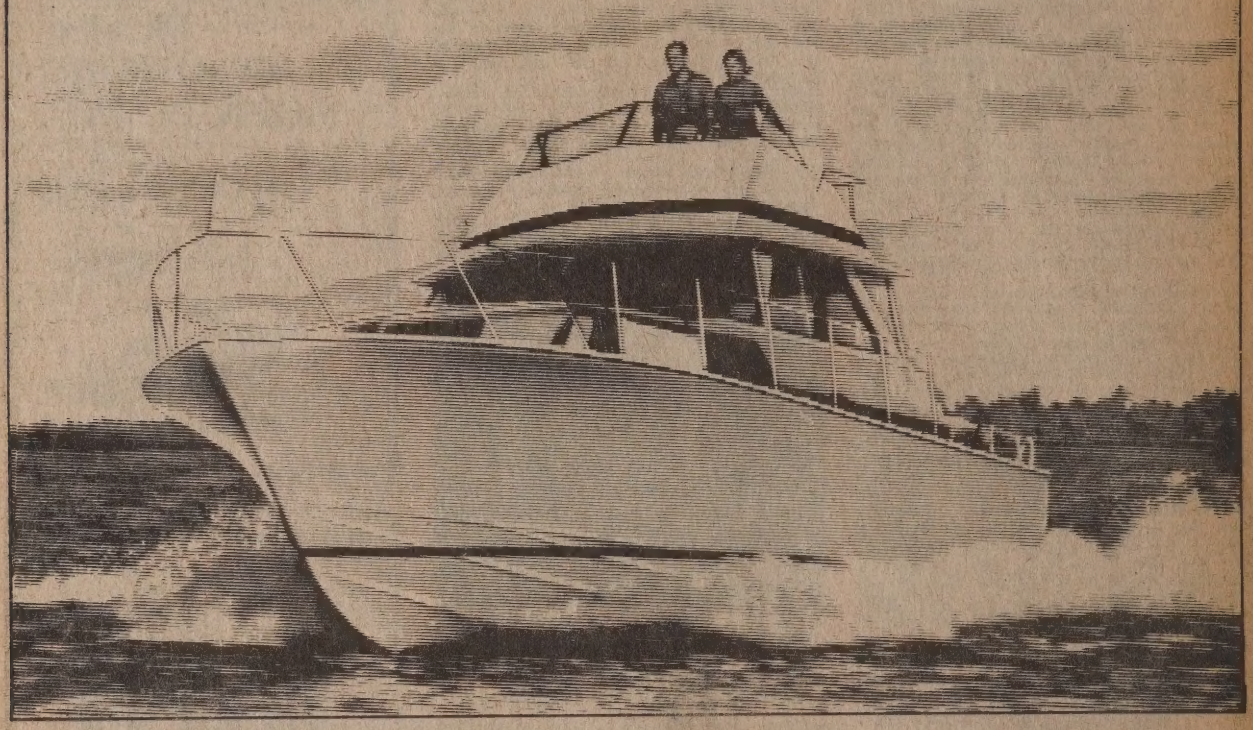

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